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**PUZZLE
PAGE**

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Medics find dead bodies in old people's home

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Police confirm surge in car park handbag thefts

Police have confirmed that since this summer, "more than thirty" people have reported possessions being stolen from their vehicles as part of a deceptive 'directions' scam, carried out in broad daylight in supermarket and hypermarket car parks across the region. (See Page 6)

Portuguese students achieve record results in OECD education study

Portugal has made strong progress in education, approaching the average ranking in the OECD's Programme for International Student Assessment for the first time, according to a study released earlier this week. (See Page 8)

EU ban on ecstasy- like drug on sale in Portugal

The European Union's 27 Justice Ministers have agreed to ban a dangerous ecstasy-like drug that is still legal in 12 EU countries, including here in Portugal. (See Page 17)

Weekend weather

Lisbon: The rain of late will be forgotten as a bright start to the weekend has been forecast. Temperatures will be mild for much of the coming seven days, though more rain is expected from next Wednesday evening onwards. **Algarve:** Despite a clear start to the weekend, clouds will return on Saturday and remain for much of next week, with rain predicted to return by Tuesday evening. **North:** The North will need to make the best of a dry start to the weekend, as rain will return on Tuesday and last through until at least next weekend.

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Back to basics for tourism in the Algarve as Brits are made the priority for 2011

ALGARVE TARGETS UK MARKET

Full story, see p. 2



Back in 2007, Portugal
launched a publicity campaign
in London - in Harrods, on taxis
and in tube stations. (Photo:
Lusa)

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Algarve targets UK market

Brendan de Beer

Despite 2010 on its way to becoming the best year on record in terms of profits generated in the Algarve through tourism, officials, concerned the economic recovery might be some time away, have opted to reinforce the status the region enjoys as one of British tourists' preferred destinations.

The move was announced this week in Faro where officials unveiled the results of this past year's Algarve regional entertainment and culture programme and its plans for 2011.

Contrasting the cutbacks suffered by most Government financed projects, Algarve will maintain its budget for next year.

"Our continued support of this programme is not only for the good of tourism in the Algarve, but for tourism in Portugal as a whole", State Secretary for Tourism Bernardo Trindade told journalists at a Faro press conference this week.

The State Secretary was accompanied by the President of the Algarve Tourist Board (ERTA), Nuno Aires and the coordinator of the Algarve programme, Augusto Miranda.

In 2011, a new strategy is being put in place and will be known as 'Algarve Nations'. This concept is aimed at boosting relationships with major markets, with Britain selected as the priority for 2011.

"The UK will be the major focus next year", explained Augusto Miranda, adding that contacts have been made with London with a view to bringing Phantom of the Opera to the Algarve as just one area of the increased cooperation sought with Britain in 2011.

Algarve 2010 reported an increase of 55% in tourists in relation to the previous year, which can be explained by increased expenditure on promotion coupled with the fact that the programme this year included 95 events, spanning 11 months.

On the sidelines of the Algarve 2010 closing ceremony, State Secretary Trindade rein-

In a move that has this week surprised observers, tourism officials in the Algarve have revealed their focus on emerging markets will be placed on the back-burner in 2011 as the region looks to consolidate its relationship with the United Kingdom - traditionally its biggest supplier of tourists and tourism-related revenue.



Contacts have been made with London with a view to bringing Phantom of the Opera to the Algarve.

forced his statement made a week earlier that 2010 had been "very positive" and that the expectation for 2011 was that the German and British markets would recover.

Mr. Trindade also expressed the belief that the crisis could have positive effects for the Algarve as many Portuguese tourists will decide against spending their holidays abroad, instead opting for a cheaper vacation in the

south of the country.

However, positive news was already emerging from Britain this week, as bookings for holidays to escape the UK's big freeze were found to be up 65% year-on-year, according to lowcostholidays.com, the online travel company, with traffic to the website up by 60% year-on-year since the snow first fell.

Matt Hall, Product Director at

lowcostholidays.com explained in a statement that "the cold weather has driven more customers to search for winter sun holidays with the Canaries and the Algarve offering the best value for money. Some holidaymakers are still looking to get away this Christmas and New Year in spite of the increased flight prices. Bookings for next summer are also helping customers to cope with the cold", he said.

Controversial quarry closed, but leaves its mark

A large area of once beautiful countryside has been left completely defaced after a controversial quarry that until recently extracted stone from the spot was forced to close by the courts.

The location, in Cerro do Leiria, near Tavira (Eastern Algarve) has been left with large excavated craters, devoid of flora and in stark contrast to surrounding countryside.

All machinery has now been removed from the area.

Loulé's Fiscal Courts (TAFI) acted favourably in response to action instigated by residents of the Santa Catarina da Fonte do Bispo parish, to stop the quarry from

functioning.

While a license had been conceded by Tavira Town Hall for the excavations to take place, by managing company Tecnovia, following action from the residents the courts passed an injunction in October to suspend all activities at the quarry as well as the license.

Two months after the decision was made the land is now quiet, but severely scarred.

In February this year residents of Santa Catarina da Fonte do Bispo, foreign and Portuguese, instigated action against the quarry that was located less than one kilometre from a popular bowling club.

It was also situated on REN

(National Ecological Reserve)-classified land, beneath which is believed to flow the Algarve's only aquifer, as well as being on the doorstep of several countryside villas, which in some cases literally overlooked the unattractive site.

Operations were given the green light in 2009 by Tavira Town Hall, then under the presidency of current Faro Mayor, Macário Correia.

A protest group, PROBAAL, was set up by the residents to organise several forms of action to try and stop the quarry's activities. This included protests outside the Town Hall in Tavira.

In what has been dubbed a 'David vs Goliath case', after al-

most a year of action, the residents have been victorious in their mission.

Commenting on the outcome, a local resident said "We fully expected the court to rule in favour of the Town Hall. It was a pleasant surprise to be proved wrong".

"This just goes to show that the Portuguese legal system does work and big businesses, local authorities and government agencies cannot just steamroller activities ignoring the impact on people's quality of life, or the impact on sensitive environmental areas.

"It greatly benefits Portugal's image abroad", it was concluded.



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Medics find bodies in old people's home



Police officers investigate the deaths of three people at a house in Charneca da Caparica in Almada on 7 December. (Photo: Lusa / João Relvas)

INEM emergency medics called out on Tuesday this week to assist an elderly lady who had suffered a heart attack at an old people's home in Caparica were shocked to find three dead bodies of elderly people at the property, which social security representatives have admitted they knew was operating clandestinely.

The property, in Charneca da Caparica was illicitly operating as an old persons' home, a situation officials say they were aware of. The proprietor had, according to reports, already been asked to close the home voluntarily. Following this week's findings the home has been closed by officials.

Edmundo Martinho, president of Social Security, said that the home "did not pose imminent

risks to the immediate safety of its users" though "an intervention was being prepared."

When INEM medics arrived there on Tuesday this week to assist the elderly woman who went into cardiac arrest and subsequently died, they discovered three more bodies, two men and a woman, allegedly all over the age of 90. All three are believed to have died during Monday night

and had reportedly been prepared for their funerals. Sources said none of the bodies showed signs of neglect.

The medics alerted the GNR police who passed the case on to the PJ police. Investigations are ongoing.

Remaining elderly residents from the home, who were 13 in total, are in the process of being re-homed in other institutions.

New rights for passengers travelling by water

The European Parliament and the Council have given their signature to a regulation that will enable passengers travelling by sea and by inland waterways to enjoy the same rights wherever they travel in the European Union.

Among these rights is the right to information or compensation in the case of delay or cancellation of a journey. In addition, the new rules also offer people with a disability or reduced mobility protection when travelling over water. The new regulation will complement existing rights for air and rail passengers.

Commission Vice-President Siim Kallas, responsible for transport, said: "People are entitled to enjoy the same levels of quality and safety wherever they travel within the European Union. I am very glad that after introducing rights for air and rail passengers, we are now also able to introduce similar rights for passengers travelling by water."

Most councils charging maximum tax

The majority of municipalities in Portugal (176 out of 308) will next year be charging maximum council taxes (IMI), of 0.7 percent, it emerged this week.

Included in these are the country's two largest municipalities, Lisbon and Oporto, who's IMI taxes will remain unaltered, at 0.68 and 0.7 percent, respectively.

Of the 292 municipalities that have already decided what IMI tax they will be charging in 2011, 176 opted to charge the maximum of 0.7 percent.

In 2010, 175 elected the maximum option, while 119 decided to charge less than what was established by law.

Town Halls can choose IMI taxes ranging between 0.4 and 0.7 percent. Only 18 municipalities so far have said they will be going with the minimum option in 2011, amongst which are Anadia and Castelo de Paiva, both in Aveiro.

IMI tax is described as one of the most important sources of revenue for municipalities, though they started gradually falling in 2009.

2010 among top-three hottest years since records began

This year was reportedly one of the hottest years in the world's history, since records began in 1850, according to the World Meteorological Organisation (WMO).

This year the months of January through to October suffered average and overall temperature increases of 0.55 degrees and 0.11 degrees respectively, which is higher than the general comparative average, 14 degrees, calculated from records documented from 1961 to 1990.

Between January and October this year the highest overall temperature exceed other record peaks registered in 1998 and 2005 by 0.53 and 0.52 degrees respectively.

Despite no figures being available from November or December, as yet, preliminary data suggests

that temperatures have been similar to those registered in November 2005 and could mean that overall figures for 2010 are close to setting new records. On mainland Portugal the period from January to November 2010 is one of the seven hottest since 1931.

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Police confirm “more than thirty” car park handbag thefts



Carrie-Marie Bratley

Police this week confirmed that, since summer, “more than thirty” people have reported possessions being stolen from their vehicles as part of a deceptive ‘directions’ scam, carried out in broad daylight in supermarket and hypermarket car parks across the region.



A generic photo of a thief stealing a laptop from a car

The Portugal News first reported the scheme in July this year, when in the eight days leading up to July 17th at least three people – two from the Lagoa area and one from Vila do Bispo – were the victims of the carefully crafted scam.

Thefts have been reported in car parks belonging to Intermark, Lidl and Aldi stores throughout the region, amongst others. In all incidents identical modus operandi are used to swipe belongings from unsuspecting victims' vehicles.

The criminals are described as “a nice, young, foreign-looking couple”, who accost their victims in a car, asking for directions. Generally, duped individuals recounted, one of the couple brings out a map and then asks the victim to point out routes on it. While they are distracted, personal belongings such as handbags and other valuables are quietly removed from the victim's vehicle by a third assailant.

Since July reports of the scams have been constant.

In August a 77-year-old long-term resident from Carvoeiro was victim to the ploy, and in the past two weeks a further two individuals contacted The Portugal News urging that readers be warned that the scams are still ongoing.

In a letter to The Portugal

News (see page 30), one foreign resident who recently became victim to the ploy and who asked to remain anonymous, queried, “I’m informed that it’s [the scams] quite a regular occurrence, so why the police can’t catch these people I don’t know!”

She too said she had been approached by “a young couple in a car with their window down” who were “of Eastern European appearance and she [the female] had a map on her knee.”

“They asked directions to Spain (...) I showed them on their map and off they went. (...) It wasn’t until I reached home that [I noticed] a third person had entered my car from the other side and taken my handbag.”

An email sent to The Portugal News urged “women to be on their guard when in supermarket car-parks”.

“I think many of us became aware of the problem in the summer when lone women taking their shopping to the car were stopped by seemingly decent people in a car and asked for directions. Being distracted they did not notice the theft of their handbags until it was too late”.

The email continued “It now seems that the same ploy is being used (I know personally of two victims in the last three weeks) on the winter visitors that missed the earlier warnings.

“Women really need to keep their bags strapped across them so there is no tendency to put them down either on the trolley or on the car seat from where they can be quickly stolen.”

The author of the email described the incidents as “a very distressing and costly situation.”

A police statement to The Portugal News confirmed “Diverse situations of thefts in hypermarket car parks, across the Algarve, have been reported”, adding that “so far, more than thirty situations” had occurred.

“The GNR is investigating these cases and has already carried out several forms of action, which have had positive results, having already identified some people presumed to be the authors of these crimes.”

The GNR spokesperson further confirmed that “as a strategy, the authors of these crimes approach the victim to ask for directions, in most cases they bring out a map for the place or directions to be shown on with the aim of distracting the victim's attention from their belongings, namely bags or wallets.

“A second person, making the most of the victim's distraction, takes their belongings and flees the location before the victim realises they were the target of a theft.”

The statement stressed “As a rule, they approach people who are alone, foreign, and of more advanced ages.”



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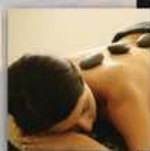
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Mother suffocates newborn baby, avoids jail



A 39-year-old woman from Arcozelo, Vila Verde, who suffocated her newborn daughter and hid the body has avoided being sent to jail after courts sentenced her to a suspended prison sentence of two years and nine months.

Vila Verde Courts sentenced the woman, named as Rosa Fernandes, to two years in prison for infanticide and a further nine months for hiding the body. However the sentence was suspended taking into account that the woman reportedly 'regretted' the crime, confessed, and had no previous criminal record.

At the end of her sentence reading neither the woman nor her lawyer gave statements to journalists.

According to her confession in court, Rosa Fernandes suffocated her newborn baby daughter immediately after giving birth and was still suffering from la-

bour pains. She did it, allegedly, for being "very ashamed" about what her family and village neighbours would say, given that she didn't know who the father was.

She claimed she also feared that the child would be taken from her and placed into care, as had happened with her other six children. After committing the crime she put the newborn's body in a bowl and buried it in her backyard.

During the trial, Rosa Fernandes "cried with regret", reports recounted, and said "after having had so many children I could only have been crazy to do such a thing."

Foreign women in Portugal's jails triple in a decade

The number of foreign women in Portuguese prisons has tripled in a decade, according to a study commissioned by the Catholic University of Oporto.

Carried out by the Education and Psychology faculty, the study entitled 'The life trajectories of foreign female prisoners in Portugal' was presented at a conference on 4 December. The figures showed that the number of foreign women in the national female prison population have increased from 11.4 percent in 2000 to 31.9 percent in 2009.

According to the study, which took two years to complete and included data collected from the Tires and Santa Cruz do

Bispo prisons, 49.6 percent of foreign female prisoners originate from Portuguese speaking African countries.

Meanwhile, figures show that foreign men represent only 19.6 percent of Portugal's male prison population, with the average age of male prisoners being 35.8 years old. The average age for female prisoners is higher, at 38 years old, which may be due to older women being used to transport drugs.

Researchers from universities as well as professionals that work with prisons and prisoners met during the conference where the study was presented, to discuss and debate a variety of topics related to crime in Portugal.




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Portuguese students achieve record results in OECD's PISA study



Portugal has made strong progress in education, approaching the average ranking in the OECD's Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA) for the first time, according to a study released earlier this week.

The PISA 2009 report issued in Paris showed Portuguese 15-year-olds registering "impressive" gains over the previous study in 2006 in the key subjects of reading, mathematics and sciences, OECD director Andreas

Schleicher told Lusa News Agency.

The Portuguese students received a classification of 489 points, just shy of the 493-point average among 470,000 students from 65 countries tested last year, the study showed.

The score placed Portugal alongside countries like the United States, Sweden, Germany, France, Ireland, Denmark, Great Britain and Hungary.

South Korea and Finland led the pack with 539 and 536 points, respectively.

"Portugal occupied the bottom of the pile in previous studies and this time neared the average for OECD countries, overtaking Spain, for example", Schleicher said.

He attributed Lisbon's eye-opening progress to "the policies followed in recent years and to a combination of factors, like the evaluation of teachers and serious control of the quality of teaching".

In Lisbon, Education Minister Isabel Alçada welcomed the report as confirmation of "very significant" gains in Portugal's educational system.

"Portugal has invested much in improving its schools and this is expressed in the results", Alçada told Lusa, attributing the success "in the first place, to the work of teachers and their quality, investment and commitment".

TPN/Lusa

Photo left: Education Minister Isabel Alçada inaugurates the Maia e Resende School Centre which will open its doors in the new school year to more than 400 children from various educational establishments in the area, (Photo: Lusa / Estela Silva)

Nutrition deemed a growing health challenge in the EU and beyond

Over half the EU adult population is now overweight or obese according to the "Health at a Glance: Europe 2010" report published by the European Commission and the OECD earlier this week.

The rate of obesity has more than doubled over the past 20 years in most EU Member States.

This has considerable implications on health, health systems and on the wider economy. This is one of the many findings in a report which provides useful insight into the current situation of health in the EU.

Welcoming the report, European Commissioner for Health and Consumer Policy, John Dalli,

said, "In order to reverse the growing trend in obesity and other health problems in the EU we need reliable and up-to-date data to underpin the action we take as policymakers. This is where the Health at a Glance report makes such an important contribution and shall be a useful tool in the coming months and years."

The report shows that prevalence of obesity alone ranges from less than 10% in Romania and Italy to over 20% in the UK, Ireland and Malta. On average, just over 15% of the EU adult population is obese.

Healthy habits start young. Children who are obese or overweight are more likely to suffer

from poor health later in life, with a greater risk of developing heart disease, diabetes, some forms of cancer, arthritis, asthma, a reduced quality of life and even premature death.

Currently, 1 in 7 children in the EU are overweight or obese - and the figures are set to rise even further.

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Over 200 gay marriages since law took effect six months ago

More than 220 gay couples have married in Portugal in the six months since the new law took effect, according to figures supplied by the Justice Ministry to Lusa News Agency.

Of the 221 marriages, 156 took place between men and 65 between women.

In addition, 201 homosexual weddings abroad during the same period involved a Portuguese national, official figures revealed.

The law permitting gay marriage went into effect last 31 May and the first wedding took place on 7 June between lesbian activists Teresa Pires and Helena Paixão. TPN/Lusa

Book lifts lid on 'Sexualities in Portugal'

Almost half of those questioned for the study (47.6 percent) said that they engaged in sexual relations "a few times" a week; 7.4 percent answered that it was a daily or "practically" daily occurrence, while almost 10 percent said they had abstained from sexual activity this past year.

The findings were based on answers to the 'Sexual Behaviour and HIV/AIDS Infection in Portugal' survey, carried out over 2007 and 2008, commissioned by the National Coordination Board for HIV/AIDS transmission and which was also supervised by the book's authors.

The coordinators further found that women are the more sexually inactive gender, while men have relations more often.

More than a third of respondents (34.1 percent) claim to have had just one sexual partner during their lifetimes, a claim made by 52 percent of female participants, three times more than the 16.1 percent of male respondents.

Regarding the longevity of relationships, 28.3 percent of respondents say they have had the same partner for at least five years, while 16.8 percent said they had been with the same person for at least a year.

Men, however, were clearly



A new book that was launched on Tuesday this week has lifted the lid on sexual behaviour in Portugal; amongst other revelations, it was discovered that almost half of the Portuguese population has sex "a few times" a week. The book, by authors Manuel Villaverde Cabral and Pedro Moura Ferreira, is based on the findings of a study in which 3,643 individuals, aged between 18 and 65 and resident in continental Portugal, participated.



The Minister of Science, Technology and Higher Education, José Mariano Gago, makes a speech during the inauguration of an exhibition in the Living Science and Knowledge Pavilion entitled 'Sex ... so what?' which seeks to explain love and sexuality in a clear and amusing way to pre-adolescents, while at the same time respecting the family, teachers and the general public. (Photo: Lusa / António Cotrim)

ahead in the 'multiple partners' category, with 23.6 percent of men saying they currently engaged in sexual activity with various partners, in comparison to 7.2 percent of women.

The study further showed that the number of partners diminished as people got older.

It investigated deeper into individual's sexual preferences by asking about the 'diversification' of their sex-lives, focusing on four distinct activities: 'fellatio', 'cunnilingus', anal sex and non-penetrative sex.

It was found that non-penetrative sex was the most common activity in Portugal's bedrooms, with 69.5 percent of the respondents claiming to practice this form of intimate relation.

On the opposite end of the spectrum, 37.2 percent of respondents said they had practised anal sex.

Women were found to be less experimental than men, with men becoming sexually active at a younger age.

Three decades ago Portuguese men initiated their sex lives at just over 17-years-of-age, on average. That age is now calculated at 16.5.

At the start of the 1980s, the average age for a Portuguese woman to become sexually active was in her early 20s (around the age of 21.2), though this has dropped significantly to 17.2 in present times.

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Travelling Salesman Dembagow from Senegal pictured here with his wife and family in Oporto in November. Dembagow confirmed that he found Portugal to be a friendly country where he found peace and no discrimination. (Photo: Lusa / João Abreu Miranda)

Portugal's immigrant integration policies 'exemplary'



Portugal's immigrant integration politics have been highlighted by the International Organisation for Migration (IOM) in its World Migration Report 2010 as "good examples" that are successful as they "consider the immigrant to be part of a solution."

Published last week the IOM's report says that Portugal "has shown how an integrated approach can produce successful politics and services that promote a harmonious, shared future."

Speaking to Lusa News Agency, High Commissioner Rosário Farmhouse described the report's findings as "very flattering", having acknowledged Portugal's ability to create innovative and coordinated answers for civil society, given that it has welcomed considerable numbers of immigrants in recent years.

The report read "Although Portugal has only recently become a country of immigration the investment made in integration policies in the past few years has had positive outcomes that merit attention."

"Public attitudes towards immigration, as shown by a 2007 Eurobarometer poll, are among the most positive in Europe (Portugal was the second-most positive country in the EU-25), with the majority of those questioned stating that the contribution of immigrants to Portuguese society was positive", it continued.

High Commissioner Farmhouse commented: "Not all countries can uphold such ample partnerships. Governmentally maybe they can, but on a social and civil level, with the immigrants being part of the solution and actively participating in integration politics, very few countries have that vision." According to the High Commissioner, Portugal's capability in creating such synergies is related to the fact that it is traditionally a country of emigrants, who know what it is to start a new life in a far-off land.

The report reiterated this, stating: "The awareness of immigrants' needs that underlies these policy developments and public opinion reflects Portugal's emigrant experience. This framework has been very important in terms of public debate and legislative activity on immigration and integration."

"We have always managed to find answers that we would like our emigrants to find abroad. That has been the tonic that, in the partnership, has made the difference", Mrs. Farmhouse stressed.

The IOM report makes refer-

ral to various national initiatives, such as the national centres for immigrant support (in Lisbon, Oporto and Faro), and the 'One Stop Shop' project, which is operated by social-cultural mediators who themselves are immigrants.

"The centres have proved to be innovative in terms of providing a holistic and comprehensive government service. The centres have been mainstreaming the provision of immigrant services and consolidating partnerships and cooperation between civil society organisations, public authorities and central government", the report considered.

Portugal's Plan for Immigrant Integration, which was launched in 2007 and in three years has reached 80 percent of its objectives.

The report concluded: "As a country that considers its immigrants to be part of the solution, actively involving them in dialogues relating to integration policy, Portugal has demonstrated how an integrated approach can produce successful policies and services that promote a harmonious, shared future."

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EU launches VAT reform debate



The European Commission has launched a wide public consultation on how the EU's Value Added Tax (VAT) system can be strengthened and improved, to the benefit of citizens, businesses and Member States.

The aim is to give all stakeholders a chance to express their thoughts and views on the problems that currently exist with regard to VAT, and how these can be addressed. The Commission will use the feedback from this consultation to decide the best approach in creating a more stable, robust and effective VAT system for the future.

Taxation Commissioner Algirdas Šemeta said: "We need a VAT system for the 21st century: simple, modern and effective. VAT is paid by citizens, collected by businesses and is a main source of revenue for Member States, so everybody has an interest in this tax. I would urge people to make their voices heard in this consultation, so that we can ensure that the future VAT system works better for everyone."

VAT was introduced in the EU more than 40 years ago, at a

time when the marketplace looked very different from what it is now, the EC justified in a press statement.

Despite efforts over the years to modernise and simplify the VAT system bit by bit, it is clear that the regime no longer fits the needs of a service-driven, technology-based, modern economy. The complexity of the current VAT system creates unnecessary costs and burdens for taxpayers and administrations, and obstacles to the Internal Market.

Moreover, certain weaknesses within the VAT system leave it vulnerable to fraud and evasion. Therefore, a fundamental review of the VAT system is needed.

The current economic situation has highlighted the important role that VAT plays in ensuring economic stability and growth. VAT is a major source of revenue for Member States (up to 20% of total tax revenue).

It can be expected to become even more important as the recession and aging populations affect other revenue sources. In addition, economic studies show that consumption taxes are among the most growth-friendly, and a robust VAT system could contribute to economic regeneration in Europe.

It is therefore of great importance, says the EC, to ensure that the EU's VAT system is fully-functional and delivering to its full potential.

The Commission invites all interested to contribute to the public consultation, which will be open until 31st May 2011. Based on the feedback received, the Commission will present the priorities for the future VAT system in a Communication at the end of 2011.

For further information, visit: http://ec.europa.eu/taxation_customs/index_en.htm

Fiscal Representation problems

Sample Cases - this is the last of a 4-part series by Dennis Swing Greene.

The following problem cases are based on real events, illustrating what tangles can arise for Non-Residents in Portugal and how they can be avoided or fixed.

Case n° 9 - Choosing the right structure

Jacques and Brigitte wanted a holiday home in the sun far from their native Belgium. With no Capital Gains Tax on Property in their home jurisdiction, it never occurred to them to plan ahead. Years later, Jacques began to suffer from poor health and the couple decided to sell their villa. They gave Power of Attorney to an agent to handle the sale, who, unaccustomed to dealing with fiscal matters, failed to mention any of their tax liabilities. It was only 3 years later they began receiving notices from Finanças regarding the unpaid CGT assessment. By this time, serious fines and considerable late interest had accumulated in addition to the standard 25% Capital Gains taxation.

Solution: With proper advice from their Fiscal Representative, not only would they have avoided needless expenses and stress of the overdue CGT

assessment, they could have opted for a Portuguese Nominee Company from the start to hold their property. This would have led to substantial CGT tax rate savings at the point of sale with the bonus of being very tax efficient for the buyer as well.

Case N° 10 - Non-Resident Misrepresentation

When Harry and Anne put down a down payment on their new home in Portugal, an agent went to Finanças to get them Fiscal Numbers. Not wanting to take on the responsibility of being their Fiscal Representative, he ticked the "resident" box. Subsequently, Rates bills went straight to the house and everything seemed fine until a notice arrived asking why they had never put in an IRS "Self-Assessment" in Portugal.

If you are registered as "resident", Finanças will expect annual tax declarations based on your worldwide income. This alleged dual tax residency status could prove to be an expensive

nightmare. Appointing a proper Fiscal Representative, as required by law, should sidestep an otherwise avoidable double assessment.

Solution: It is your Fiscal Representative's job to see that you are correctly registered and that you meet your compliance obligations in Portugal. At the same time, your Representative should strive to use every mechanism available under the law for you to pay the legal minimum.

This is the final article in the 4-part series

Dennis Swing Greene is Chairman and International Fiscal Consultant for **euroFINESCO s.a.** Private consultations can be scheduled in **Guia (Albufeira) 289561333, Lisbon (Chiado) 21342421 and in Funchal (Sé), Madeira 291221095, by e-mail at info@eurofinesco.com or on the internet at www.eurofinesco.com.**

Ten million use Europass CV for job-search

More than 10 million people are now using a 'Europass' online CV (curriculum vitae) to help them find a job, according to latest figures compiled by the European Commission.

By offering a standardised CV template, available in 26 languages, Europass helps job-seekers to market their knowledge and skills in a user-friendly way to employers all over Europe and beyond. Almost half of Europass users are under the age of 25.

Androulla Vassiliou, European Commissioner for Education, Culture, Multilingualism and Youth, said: "The Europass CV is practical, popular and effective. I am particularly

pleased that it has been embraced by young people; it is an important tool in our Youth on the Move campaign, which encourages study and work abroad. I doubt it will be too long before we see 20 million Europass users."

The Europass was launched in 2005 and was originally targeted at young people looking for jobs and opportunities abroad; these users are still its main customers. Almost half of Europass users are under 25; one third has no previous work experience and only a minority has more than 5 years' experience.

However, it is clear from the feedback that, as well as using Europass to seek posts abroad, a lot of people are increasingly us-

ing the CV to apply for jobs in their own country too.

Europass has proved popular with business and employment agencies.

Marc Vandelee, PR and Communication Manager for Manpower Belgium, said: "In a constantly changing labour market, which is becoming more and more international, the Europass CV facilitates recruitment processes for companies and improves worker mobility. The way a candidate puts together their CV is often influenced by their local country culture. Standard practice in one country is not necessarily the accepted way in another. The Europass CV solves this problem."

EU report stresses urgency to remove labour market obstacles



The new Employment in Europe 2010 report presented recently has underlined how young people have borne the brunt of the crisis, with unemployment disproportionately hitting 15-24 year olds and reaching over 30% in some countries.

Although there are consistent signs of the EU labour market stabilising, with indications of the beginnings of an upturn in some Member States, the crisis has had a profound effect on employment and the overall recovery of the EU economy remains fragile.

The rise in unemployment combined with limited opportunities to re-enter work has aggravated the risk of a surge in long-

term unemployment or people leaving the labour market altogether. The report stresses that it might be some time before we see a clear upswing for jobs.

"European labour markets will emerge from the crisis profoundly changed. That's why workers and employers must be ready with the right skills and incentives to adapt to the changing realities" said László Andor, EU Commissioner for Employ-

ment, Social Affairs and Inclusion. He added: "We are working with all our partners, including Member States, to ensure that people have the right skills for the jobs of tomorrow. Our Europe 2020 target is to reach 75% employment and getting people into work is the main objective of two of our flagship initiatives announced this year: 'Youth on the Move' and 'New Skills and Jobs'."

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Government looking at labour reforms – PM



Prime Minister José Sócrates acknowledged this week that his Socialist government was considering changes in Portugal's labour laws, telling journalists details could be known in "the coming days".

"I've already answered this question several times in the last 15 days. I've already said that we would prepare an agenda for growth; we have meetings set with our social partners", Prime Minister Sócrates replied when pressed by reporters on speculation labour reforms were in the works.

"So the answer is 'yes' and you'll have more details in the coming days", he added.

Mr. Sócrates spoke to reporters on the sidelines of the presentation in Lisbon of the OECD's PISA on educational standards that showed Portugal approaching the organisation's average

ranking for the first time.

He attributed the country's record results primarily to teachers, calling them "the heroes of the results".

The good PISA showing, he said, confirmed the government had been justified in pressing forward with educational reforms that had faced strong opposition from teachers unions.

His educational policies had "moved in the right direction", he added, saying he had "never thought (teachers) were against the reforms" despite certain "misunderstandings" and "obstacles".

TPN/Lusa



Portuguese Finance Minister, Teixeira dos Santos (R), flanked by the Prime Minister, José Sócrates, talks to journalists at a recent press conference in Lisbon. Media reports state that José Sócrates announced the new economic measures to balance the deficit which include cuts in the state workers wages, in the social assistance state contributions and a VAT tax raise from 21 to 23 per cent. (Photo: Lusa / EPA / António Cotrim)

Banks giving cheaper evaluations of properties

Banks' evaluations of apartments and villas dropped in October by 0.6 percent, in comparison to the month before, and by 1.3 percent when compared to the same month of 2009; at present properties are averagely priced at €1,133 per square metre, according to a survey by the National Statistics Institute (INE).

Research by the INE into banks' evaluations regarding the property market and access to home loans have further revealed that in October, evaluations being carried out in the metropolitan areas of Lisbon and Oporto fell by 0.4 percent in comparison to September, and 0.1 percent, in relation to October 2009.

The average evaluation for the rest of the country, which

in October was of €1,133 per square metre, was around seven euros cheaper than in the same month of the year before, though the drop in value was still not as intense as in September, when the average evaluation dropped by €11, in comparison to 12 months earlier.

Only in the Algarve and Madeira were any positive changes registered, with pricings rising by 0.8 percent and 0.4 percent, respectively.

Nationally, regarding apartments, the INE calculated that bank evaluations stabilised at around €1,202 per square metre, 0.7 percent cheaper than in September, whereas a square metre of a villa cost around €1,206, 0.1 percent cheaper than the month before.

Brazil ready to help Portugal exit crisis as 'quickly as possible'

Brazil will do everything it can to aid Portugal overcome its economic and financial crisis, President Lula da Silva said before heading to Argentina for the Iberian-American summit.

President Lula said, in a meeting with foreign correspondents, that Finance Minister Guido Mantega would soon hold talks in Brasilia with his Lisbon counterpart, Fernando Teixeira dos Santos, on how Brazil "can help investment in Portugal more".

"We will make the effort that's within our reach to aid Portugal get out of this crisis as quickly as possible", the President added.

Lula da Silva said Brazil and other Latin American countries had headed to the 20th Iberian-American summit in Mar del Plata with "pride" as their economies, in contrast to Europe's, were growing.

"This is the time of emerging countries", he said, adding that Portugal and Spain "should be very happy" with "the extraordinary growth" across the Latin American countries Iberia spawned.

He described the economic and financial difficulties facing Europe as a "passing crisis".

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Vilamoura Gets Spar Supermarket!

The well known Spar supermarket chain has opened a superstore in the Vilamoura resort. After many months of research and tough negotiations with Lusort the Supermarket is now open to the public.

The store Manager Mr. Rodrigo Jesus will ensure that customers get the very best quality products at the best possible price. One of the stipulations when Spar was awarded the building (which used to house the cinema) to open the supermarket was that the store must cater for local and international residents and visitors of Vilamoura. Bearing this in mind, the staff is always open to suggestions from clients of new products to stock.

All twenty staff members have been trained in customer relations and were instructed to always treat customers with a smile, making a pleasant change from what seems to be the norm in business today.

With 600 square meters of space and a very large selection of groceries available, customers shopping at Spar Vilamoura are sure to find exactly what they are looking for. In the butcher section you can find a large selection of fresh meats, including cuts preferred by the international market. The wine section carries a wide selection of both national and international wines and spirits. The fresh fruit and vegetable section is restocked at regular intervals to ensure garden freshness at all times. There is a fresh and frozen fish selection, a ready-made food section for take-away home-made meals, a bakery with fresh bread and pastries and a wide range of groceries to ensure a one stop supermarket.

Spar Vilamoura is open every day from 8am to 8pm with plenty of parking available.

Find Spar Vilamoura next to Lusort offices in the old cinema building.



Pickle and Pie

The Pickle and Pie Sports Bar and Restaurant are celebrating their first Christmas on the Marina and will be open all Christmas and New Year.

Christmas is coming! The weather is cooling down and the festive season is just around the corner. The Pickle and Pie are well under way with their festive season planning. From partying the night away, to giving mum Christmas Day off. The Pickle and Pie is a beautifully presented old style bar. "A place where you always feel at home".

This traditional pub is based on the Marina de Lagos with spectacular views of the Marina. The Bar is open on Christmas Day until 2:00pm. For everyone and then their festive Christmas Lunch celebrations start, with free beer and wine with lunch.

They have a massive New Year's Eve celebration with free entry and are also open all day New Year's Day, serving food all day.

Next to the Christmas Tree in The Pickle and Pie Bar there is a

large charity box which the management want to fill with gifts - a place where customers can drop wrapped gifts for under-privileged local children.

For the month of December, Monday is Pool tournament night at 07:30pm and Friday is Quiz Night at 8:00pm and there will be a collection at both events for the local charities.

There is also a new Special Offer meal deal on the winter menu to beat the recession at €5, a special meal which is served all day every day, featuring homemade pies and stews, etc. Also back by popular demand is their Sunday lunch menu with roast beef, roast pork, homemade soup, starters and desserts.

For more information on their special offers please do not hesitate to contact the team at the bar or call Siobhan O Shaughnessy on 282792384 mobile 910166207.

The management and staff of The Pickle and Pie would like to take this opportunity to wish all their customers a Joyous Christmas and a prosperous New Year.



New address for English Grocer

Thomas Green's in Olhos de Agua gets a new address, having moved just around the corner from where they used to be. The new shop is more prominent on the main road of Olhos de Agua in Albufeira and offers clients an even larger range of their favourite English groceries.

Right on the bus route and very close to the taxi rank, Thomas Green's is very easy to get to, if you come by car, parking is never a problem as the shop is located next to the Market square parking lot.

As always, at this time of year, Thomas Green's carries a large range of Christmas treats, sweet and savoury as well as sweet gifts, Christmas crackers, cards, gift wrap and are now taking orders for traditional Christmas meats. Go along now and

stock up with everything you will need for this holiday season, all at a reasonable price. The only thing you won't find is the snow.

Thomas Green's also have a home delivery service for Albufeira and Vilamoura for orders that warrant this.

All year round, Thomas Green's pride themselves on their vast range of British foods with all your convenience grocery requirements, they are here to make your life easy. All the favourite expat items at fantastic value for money.

You can find Thomas Green's at, Loteamento Praça do Mercado, Loja 17, Torre da Madronheira, Olhos de Agua, Albufeira.

Or call them on 289 541 119 e mail albufeira@thomasgreen.pt

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react to protect your interests in an emergency situation. Overseas Legal's office is always there to help you, so keep a note of their contact details, just in case.

They also offer bureaucratic mediation between expats and the Portuguese Authorities.

Regarding foreign investment and business, their mission is to support those initiatives by helping to plan the investments reducing costs and helping to establish new businesses in Portugal. They have offices in Lisbon, Lagoa and Tomar. Call on 919 300 160 for more information or e-mail legal@overseas.pt.

Self Defence

We live in difficult and troubled times, sad but true, and in a society where, although still unusual, personal attack of some sort is always a possibility.

The Algarve Association of Self Defence has developed a system aimed at training and helping ordinary people who may be faced with a personal attack of some nature. Based on a thorough study, they have developed a course which takes the best of martial arts and combat sports and then adapts it to the demands of what we may have to deal with on the street one day!

The objective of the system is to prepare the average person to be capable of distinguishing and analysing a situation and to have the confidence and knowledge to deal with it in an appropriate way.

This is a challenging course, but we recognise that it is no use having a good technical knowledge of self defence without good mental preparation as during the first 30 seconds of an approach, the attitude that you take is crucial in defining the course of events.

The Algarve Association of Self Defence is growing and has now spread to ten cities and

towns, requiring commitment from those who teach and from those who want to learn. In this sense it is a process based on good principles, with a means and not an end. There is always a factor to consider and improve as ignorance is infinite, while knowledge is always limited, requiring a constant evolution where there are no standard situations, and they aim to train you to feel prepared to deal with something for which you were never taught to deal with, preventing fear and panic while at the same time developing a moderate physical condition, this being one of the creeds.

We should keep in mind that even as you read this article, statistics point to the fact that someone somewhere is in a 'delicate' situation, which requires training to deal with in a proper way.

Choose one of several training academies near you. Go and try the association's system free for two weeks. Just do it! You may well surprise yourself. Get more information by consulting the website at www.elitedp.net.

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Portuguese praise for outcome of Iberian-American summit

Portuguese leaders have applauded the Iberian-American summit's inclusion of a "democratic clause" in its charter as a major advance for the organisation.

President Cavaco Silva and Prime Minister José Sócrates described the move, taken last weekend at the leadership meeting in Argentina, as giving the community a new political dy-

namic of great importance.

"The 'democratic clause' is one of the most important in the life and development of the Iberian-American community", Prime Minister Sócrates said at the close of the 20th organisation summit in Mar del Plata.

The trans-Atlantic summits between Iberian nations Portugal and Spain and Latin America emerged from "a geographic jus-

Portugal ranked 3rd for child health by Unicef

Portugal has been ranked in third place on a list of economically developed countries which compares access to health care for poorer children, according to a report published by United Nations Children's Fund (Unicef).

The report, entitled 'The children left behind' raises awareness of children who are at risk of not being included or protected by the healthy societies in which they live.

"Whether it's in healthcare, education or material wealth, some children will always be far from average. The question is to understand how far from average they are?" said the report, which aims to answer the question by comparing the situation of children within the national average with those who are at the end of the line.

Countries featured at the top of the list are those that

were found to have the least amount of inequality between the poorest children and the national average.

Out of a total of 24 economically developed countries included in the study, Portugal came third in terms of healthcare, after Holland in first place and Norway in second place. Germany has been placed after Portugal and Switzerland is in fifth place on the list.

Researchers used three indicators to uncover disparities; health complaints made by the children themselves, healthy eating habits and physical exercise.

There is no data available yet to see how the current economic crisis has impacted on poor children, according to Unicef: "during hard times, the poorest children should be the first to be protected, not the last to be considered."



Brazilian President Luiz Inácio Lula Da Silva poses with President Aníbal Cavaco Silva and Prime Minister José Sócrates, during the XX Iberian American Summit in Mar del Plata on 4 November.

tification" to become a "framework of shared (political) values", he added.

Separately, Cavaco Silva echoed the Prime Minister's sentiments, saying the inclusion of the democratic clause in the charter gave the organisation "a political dimension, making it stronger".

The clause approved at the two-day meeting enshrines the principle of democratic rule as a foundation for the community, foreseeing sanctions for member countries that violate the principle.

Cavaco Silva and José Sócrates also praised the summit's approval of the goal of "education

for inclusion", or access to basic education for all, with an action plan through 2021 as another pivotal advance for the organisation.

Portugal was also pleased with the outcome of the summit in economic terms, as a number of deals were signed or agreed.

Portugal's economic diplomacy will broadly target Latin America, after having established strong business footholds in Brazil and Venezuela, Prime Minister José Sócrates said.

Lisbon's continuing offensive to boost trade and investment ties abroad will now "centre on Latin America", Prime Minister Sócrates said, describing the re-

gion's economic expansion as "absolutely exceptional in the world".

Mr. Sócrates said he was optimistic over opportunities to give a new dynamic to bilateral business ties with Argentina and announced he planned to visit Mexico and Panama early next year.

Colombia and Guatemala had also invited him to visit, he added.

On the sidelines of the summit in Mar del Plata, José Sócrates held business-centred talks with his Argentine hostess, President Cristina Kirchner.

A Lisbon official told Lusa News Agency Buenos Aires was

considering buying up to 900,000 Portuguese-manufactured primary school "Magalhães" computers and that the two countries were discussing the creation of a joint fund to back two-way exports.

Argentine pharmaceutical giant Bago was looking at Portugal as a possible site for a new plant for expansion in Europe, the official added.

Mr. Sócrates said he hoped his meeting with Kirchner would lead "quickly" to accords for export of Portuguese IT, telecommunications, renewable energy and railroad products and technology.

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EU-Africa summit ends with appeal for European investment



The 3rd European Union-Africa summit ended last week in Tripoli with calls for European investment in Africa.

European Commission President José Manuel Durão Barroso and African Union Commission President Jean Ping closed the summit in a ceremony not attended by the event's host, Libyan leader Muammar Gaddafi.

Ping lamented that European investment "always goes to Asia", not Africa, while Durão

Barroso said that "development aid is not enough" and that "investment and institutional organisation" will be needed to create jobs and growth.

Ping also criticised policies "dictated" to African nations by global bodies such as the IMF, noting they "didn't have the effect their promoters suggested".

"Perhaps the prescription the European Commission President offers is not a remedy at all, maybe it will drown Africa instead of saving it", Ping said.

The summit had a low-key tone. Several major European leaders, including from France, Germany and Britain, were absent.

One European leader who did attend the Tripoli summit was Portuguese Prime Minister José Sócrates, who praised the event's "great political and economic importance".

Prime Minister Sócrates also told reporters that he expects to host a Europe-Africa conference on energy policy: "Energy will be at the centre of growth and at the centre of cooperation because it's the area of the greatest opportunities in the relationship between Europe and Africa."

Mr. Sócrates added he would like the proposed energy conference to take place "the soonest possible and before the next [EU-Africa] summit", which should happen in 2013.

Photo left: European Commission President José Manuel Barroso (L) and President of the African Union Commission Jean Ping (R) speak during the press conference during a session of the Africa / EU summit in Tripoli, Libya on 30 November. The Africa / EU Summit took place in Libya on 29 and 30 November under the theme of Investment, Economic Growth and Job Creation. Heads of States and Governments were to address key issues such as peace and security, climate change, regional integration and private sector development, infrastructure and energy, agriculture and food security, migration. (Photo: EPA/Sabri Elmhedwi)

Portugal taken to EU Court over air quality failings

The European Commission is urging Portugal to comply with EU air quality limit values for airborne particles known as PM10.

Portugal and three other Member States have so far failed to effectively tackle excess emissions of PM10.

On the recommendation of Environment Commissioner Janez Potočnik, the Commission has therefore decided to take

Portugal, along with Cyprus, Italy and Spain to court.

Legislation sets limit values for exposure which were to be met by 2005, covering both an annual concentration value, and a daily concentration value that must not be exceeded more than 35 times in any calendar year.

Member States may apply for exemptions from the PM10 limit values until June 2011, but these

exemptions are subject to a number of conditions.

A Member State must demonstrate that it has taken steps to achieve compliance by the extended deadline and that it is implementing an air quality plan setting out the relevant abatement actions for each air quality zone.

The information available to the Commission shows that the limit values for PM10 have not

been respected in several zones in Portugal since the legislation came into force in 2005.

While all four Member States have applied for time extensions, the Commission considers that the conditions for granting them have not been met for several non-compliant air quality zones.

It is therefore taking these Member States to the European Court of Justice.

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Portugal has “nothing to add” on “manipulation” of Wikileaks documents



Portugal's Foreign Ministry has “nothing to add” on the transportation of Guantanamo prisoners through Portugal mentioned in one of the US diplomatic cables disclosed by website Wikileaks, Ministry spokeswoman Paula Mascarenhas said.

EU ban on ecstasy-like drug on sale in Portugal

The EU's 27 Justice Ministers have agreed to ban a dangerous ecstasy-like drug that is still legal in 12 EU countries, including Portugal.

The European Commission had proposed on 20 October that governments act to stop the free spread of the drug “mephedrone” across Europe by submitting it to control measures.

Mephedrone is already illegal in 15 EU countries. It has been linked to at least 37 deaths in the UK and Ireland alone.

“It is good to see that EU governments are prepared to take swift action to ban this dangerous drug,” said Vice-President Viviane Reding, the EU's Justice Commissioner.

“This drug is sold over the internet, often behind innocent names like plant food or bath salts. Young people should not be fooled. These drugs are harmful. The EU has shown today that we can act quickly to stop this kind of drug from taking more lives.”

The decision bans the manufacturing and the marketing of mephedrone, submitting it to criminal sanctions all over Europe.

Two fatalities have been reported in the EU in which mephedrone appears to be the sole cause of death.

There are at least another

37 deaths in the UK and Ireland alone in which mephedrone has been detected in post-mortem samples.

Mephedrone is a stimulant whose physical effects are comparable to those produced by ecstasy (MDMA) or cocaine.

It is mostly sold as powder, but also as capsules or tablets, on the internet, from “head shops” and from street-level dealers.

A scientific risk assessment carried out by the Lisbon-based European Monitoring Centre on Drugs and Drug Addiction (EMCDDA) showed that mephedrone can cause acute health problems and lead to dependency, while a few fatalities related to its use have been reported across Europe.

Mephedrone has no established medical value or other known legitimate purpose. It is a controlled substance in 15 EU countries: Austria, Belgium, Denmark, Estonia, France, Germany, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Luxembourg, Malta, Poland, Romania, Sweden and the UK.

In Portugal, the drug is sold as a fertiliser and its packaging states it is unfit for human consumption.



Wikileaks last week released a 2006 US embassy cable in which it is mentioned that Washington asked Lisbon for permission to send Guantanamo prisoners to their home nations.

Portuguese MEP Ana Gomes and two leftwing parties asked the Portuguese government for “clarification” on whether the cable was referring to CIA flights carrying terrorism suspects to countries where they would allegedly be tortured.

“On the so called ‘CIA flights’, the Foreign Ministry has nothing to add besides what has been said in parliament”, Mascarenhas told Lusa News Agency.

She added that the ministry cooperated with judicial authorities during an inquiry on the matter, that ended in June 2009 by concluding that Portugal did not cooperate with “CIA flights”.

“We regret the opportunistic manipulation that deliberately tries to confuse the transportation of detainees to their home nations and the so called ‘CIA flights’, an allusion to the illegal transportation of terror suspects”, Mascarenhas said.

The cache of 250,000 documents which Wikileaks and news outlets began releasing recently is known to include 722 cables sent from the US Lisbon embassy.

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Photo left: Wikileaks founder Julian Assange during his press conference in South London on 23 October. Media reports stated on 02 December that Sweden's top court had rejected an attempt by Julian Assange to appeal against a detention order issued for him over alleged sexual crimes. (Photo: EPA/Felipe Trueba)

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PoGo Instant Photo Printer



Top 10 Christmas Gadgets – Part 2

Christmas, though it is a joyous time of year, comes with many stresses. Not the least among these stresses is gift-buying. Fighting crowds, trying to find the perfect gifts for friends and loved ones can be an exercise in aggravation.

That is the reason I have come up with a list of the best gadget gifts for Christmas 2010 that will hopefully help make your Christmas shopping a little easier this year. I've done my best to make the list as diverse as possible so there is something for just about everyone - from the most tech-headed hardcore gadgetophile to the technologically challenged.

PoGo Instant Photo Printer

The PoGo Instant Photo Printer from Polaroid is full of new technology such as

Bluetooth and inkless printing. The built in Bluetooth allows you to wirelessly print photos from your mobile phone. So if you're out and about taking snaps you can print them off and keep them looking shiny in your photo album.

This portable printer connects to your camera via a USB cable and it's extremely simple to connect your digital camera or mobile phone and almost instantly start printing your pictures.

The printer is capable of printing photos of 2" x 3" in size which is probably all you can expect

from a pocket-sized printer. The printer uses 'magic' Zink paper which means no more silly flapping of your photos to dry them as it doesn't use ink cartridges.

Powered by a built-in rechargeable lithium ion battery which is represented by a small LED light on the side, this neat little gadget is practical and easy to carry in your bag or pocket.

The printer can carry up to 10 sheets of paper at a time which is more than enough to print out the best photos from one night out. Unfortunately, the printer is incompatible with the iPhone and the Zink paper does have an expiry date, but Polaroid claim that it still works at almost full quality up to 24 months after expiry.

Overall the Polaroid PoGo Instant Photo Printer is an extremely neat little gadget that could be very useful if pocket size photography and printing is your scene.

HP Envy 100 e-All-in-one Printer



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What exactly is the Boxee Box?

Simply it's a media centre computer and without a doubt the best way to enjoy TV programmes, movies, video and music from the Internet or a hard drive on your TV. Watch all the latest programmes, play videos from nearly any website, organise your personal videos, music, and photos into great looking libraries, and browse the Internet, all with a simple to use QWERTY remote. It has a terrific GUI (Graphic User Interface) that looks really smart and is simple to follow.

Unlimited content:

Watch what you want, at a time you want - Bring the Internet and your own digital content directly on to your TV. You will have access to thousands upon thousands of videos, ready to watch any time you hit the play button. Play and organise your own digital material - Play and view practically all common video, music and photo formats from your personal collection and the Internet in up to 1080p full HD. You can also see what your friends are watching by using the integrated social features to keep up with your friends on Facebook and Twitter plus many other networks. You can share anything you find from your TV directly with your friends across the Web.

Designed for comfort:

Settle down on your favourite sofa, put your feet up and relax. You will be amazed at how easy it is to organise and watch content. The fantastic remote handset with a built-in QWERTY keyboard, makes it child's play to browse the Internet or any other content for that matter. No PC required as you have all the PC power you need in one small box.

Its chunky looks are interesting and I think actually enhance the product. Quirky looks or not the Boxee Box delivers power to match a full PC. Using the ad-



D-Link Boxee Box Digital Media Player

vanced Intel Atom CPU chip and the included Wireless N technology, the Boxee Box allows you to easily play the highest quality HD video from the Internet or your own computer network at home. Even more than that, being an open and evolving platform, your Boxee Box will always be right up there. There will be new websites, movies, and TV shows constantly added to the Boxee software too. Furthermore, the Boxee Box has the facility to automatically update itself to ensure you're always getting the latest features and content, without the need to download and install them yourself.

HP Envy 100 e-All-in-one Printer

The HP Envy 100 e-All-in-One is a sleek, slim-line printer designed to complement modern home décor and features a high-resolution touchscreen display, whisper quiet operation and a retractable paper tray. It offers the most convenient way to wirelessly print documents and photos.

Designed for home users looking for impressive features from a web-connected e-All-in-One that fashionably fits in any room of the house, the sleek and compact HP Envy 100 e-All-in-One provides a touchscreen display with the highest resolution of all HP printers, transforming the way you print, copy and scan at home. Users can also produce web prints without a PC, and print anywhere, anytime, using apps and HP ePrint. What's more, the HP Envy 100 e-All-in-One is the planet's first PVC-free printer and is considered one of the world's greenest printers. It is a multifunction colour inkjet printer that is easy to setup and is the simplest among the three greenest printers from HP. It has a low noise operation compared to other all in one printers and uses a tri-colour inkjet cartridge. It can be connected through a USB 2.0 port and features integrated 802.11b/g/n wireless networking, but no Ethernet port.

HP Envy 100 e-All-in-One features a 3.5 inch touch screen control panel which contains the printer's controls and printing speeds typically are 30 pages per minute with black ink and 25 pages per minute with colour.

Black text printing with HP Envy is clear but not as clear compared to monochrome laser printing. The HP Envy can be used for printing documents, emails and assignments but is not recommended for printing high quality photos. Photo printing with this printer is not the best because of the usage of a tri-colour inkjet cartridge. The HP Envy produces very little noise when printing which automatically results in a slower printing output compared to other multifunction printers.

One great thing about the HP Envy 100 e-All-in-One is its retractable tray. The paper tray can hold up to 80 sheets of A4 paper and has automatic duplex printing making printing jobs a lot easier.

It has a 4800 x 1200 dpi scanner that can produce clear and detailed images. Scanning documents and photos is quiet just like its printing tasks. The flatbed scanner lid does not have articulate hinges which limits the printer in scanning bulkier objects like large books.

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Every HP Photosmart web-connected and cloud print-enabled printer has a unique simple email address that allows the sender to deliver a print the same way they would send an email message. Customers can also send documents to print through an HP ePrint mobile app on their smartphone device to a home, office or public print location. Customers will be able to send Microsoft Office documents, Adobe PDF's and JPEG image files, among others.



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International schools around the world are busy preparing end of term celebrations and activities. Vale Verde International School is no exception. Set in idyllic surroundings on the edge of the village of Burgau near Lagos, the school's PA is organising a Christmas Fayre from 2pm – 5pm this coming Saturday 11th December.

Father Christmas will be making a guest appearance, in spite of his very busy schedule. Other attractions will include stalls run by the students, parents and friends of the school, featuring a wide range of attractions including children's games, festive food, white elephant stall and a variety of handicrafts. Even eye tests will be on offer. There will also be a Lucky Dip and a Bouncy Castle.

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Single European Sky performance targets agreed

The committee of experts from European Member States have unanimously agreed the performance targets for the Single European Sky, presented by the European Commission in the areas of environment, capacity/delays, and cost-efficiency for the period 2012 to 2014.



The package will deliver significant safety improvements, fewer delays, lower costs and reduced CO2 emissions. For example, airspace users are expected to save €340 million per year or more than €1 billion over the whole period, while at the same time harmful CO2 emissions will be reduced by 500,000 tons a year.

Vice-President Siim Kallas, Commissioner responsible for transport, said: "In line with the discussions I had yesterday in the Transport Council, the Single European Sky has achieved a key milestone in its implementation with this agreement on ambitious but achievable performance targets. This will deliver savings of more than €1 billion, with everyone sharing in the benefits: passengers, companies and the environment. The agreement today is a very significant step forwards. And the Single European Sky is yet another example of where it pays to work together on a European scale."

Photo left: European Transport Commissioner Siim Kallas gives a news conference on EU action plan on air cargo security at the EU council headquarters in Brussels, Belgium, 29 November 2010. (Photo: EPA/Olivier Hoslet)

EU ready in talks with US on personal data agreement to fight terrorism or crime

EU Justice Ministers have approved the start of talks between the European Union and the United States on a personal data protection agreement when cooperating to fight terrorism or crime.

The aim is to ensure a high level of protection of personal information like passenger data or financial information that is transferred as part of transatlantic cooperation in criminal matters.

Once in place, the agreement would enhance citizens' right to access, rectify or delete data when it is processed with the aim to prevent, investigate, detect or prosecute criminal offences, including terrorism.

"Protection of personal data is a fundamental right for EU citizens. To guarantee this right, we need to be ambitious in our approach to personal data protection – both at home and abroad," said Vice-President Viviane Reding, the EU's Justice Commissioner.

"This decision gives us the green light to negotiate a solid and coherent agreement with the United States which balances enforceable rights for individuals with the strong coop-

eration we need to prevent terrorism and organised crime. I look forward to meeting my US counterparts in Washington next week to kick start these important negotiations."

Since 11 September 2001 and subsequent terrorist attacks in Europe, the EU and US have stepped up police and judicial cooperation in criminal matters.

Sharing relevant information is seen as an essential element of effective cooperation in the fight against crime – both within the EU and the US.

One important element is the transfer and processing of personal data for the prevention, investigation, detection or prosecution of crimes, including terrorism.

The EU and US are both committed to the protection of personal data and privacy. However, they still have different approaches in protecting personal data, leading to some controversy in the past when negotiating information exchange agreements (such as the Terrorist Finance Tracking Programme or Passenger Name Records). The purpose of the negotiations is also to address and overcome these differences.

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Plane scatters debris over Almada before being forced to return to Lisbon airport



A Boeing 777 plane belonging to Angola's national airline TAAG, was forced to return to Lisbon airport after pieces of metal fell from it across several parts of Almada near the Portuguese capital, after take off on 6 December.

Almada Volunteer Fire Brigade Commander, Vitor Espírito Santo told Lusa News Agency that "small metal fragments, around five by 15 centimetres in size belonging to an aeroplane" fell "in at least four places in Almada."

According to him, no one was injured by the falling pieces of metal but at least one car was hit.

ANA Aeroportos spokesman Rui Oliveira confirmed to Lusa News Agency on Monday that the aeroplane in question belonged to Angolan flag carrier TAAG, which had set off for Luanda but immediately turned back and carried out an emergency landing at Lisbon's Portela airport due to technical problems.

He added: "we cannot make a connection between this plane and the fallen pieces in Almada," because "an investigation is being carried out to uncover the fault" of the Boeing 777.

TAAG only resumed its flights to Portugal around a year and a half ago after having been blacklisted by the EU for safety reasons.

Meanwhile, Almada's PSP police and the regional emergency response services (CDOS) did not register any injuries, although a PSP spokesman said that three or

four vehicles and a skylight of a building had been damaged.

Following the incident, a team from the Department of Aeronautical Accident Prevention and Investigation (GPIAA) was sent to collect evidence.

"An analysis will be made of the part of the plane in question – probably the motor. We cannot yet confirm anything, but normally such small pieces are from the motor," said GPIAA Director Fernando Reis.

He added that the investigation itself will not decide who is to blame, which is the responsibility of National Civil Aviation Institute (INAC).

Hussein Juma, a passenger who had been aboard the plane told TV *Net* that "40 to 45 minutes after take we felt a very strong vibration" and the aeroplane returned to Lisbon. On Monday afternoon, the Angolan airline released a statement guaranteeing that it will assume the "eventual consequences" caused by the fault on the Boeing 777. Although this type of incident is not very common, an Airbus 380 which left from Singapore to Sydney in Australia lost several pieces of metal over the Indonesian island of Batam, around one month ago.



An airplane from the Angolan Airline TAAG at Luanda airport last year. (Photo: João Relvas / LUSA)

Foo Fighters to perform in Oeiras

Popular American rock band the Foo Fighters will be performing in Lisbon on 7 July next year as part of the Optimus Alive festival, which takes place every year on the Alges Maritime Walkway, Oeiras.

Foo Fighters are the first band to be confirmed by the promoters of the event, Everything is New.

Formed by former Nirvana drummer Dave Grohl, Taylor Hawkins, Nate Mendel and Chris Shiflett, the band has performed several times before in Portugal. They will return in 2011 to take part in what will be the fifth Optimus Alive festival, from 7 to 9 July, along the banks of the Tagus River.

The band's performance will feature new songs from their upcoming seventh album, which is still in the making and will also include collaborations with other guest artists, such as Krist Novoselic, who was once also part of legendary band Nirvana.

This year the Optimus Alive festival featured several bands that made a huge impact in the 90s, such as Faith No More, Pearl Jam and Alice in Chains, as well as more recent names, including LCD Soundsystem, The Drums, Florence + The Machine, The XX, and La Roux.

Lisbon Town Hall to sell more than 2,000 homes

Lisbon Town Hall is looking to put more than 2,000 council houses up for sale next year in a bid to raise more than five million Euros and reduce the municipal condominium responsibilities.

According to a proposal made by the habitation and heritage councillors, which will be discussed during the next meeting, Lisbon Town Hall is hoping to make around €5.2 million through the sale of at least 160 out of the 2,141 houses available.

Entire council estates will be put up for sale, making the sale preparation process more efficient and to avoid situations of inequality within each estate.

The sale strategy aims to sell estates where at least half of the houses are already privately owned so that entire council estates can become private and the Town Hall will no longer be responsible for their management and condominiums.

In the Casa dos Machados council estate for example, where 204 properties are privately owned, the Town Hall is proposing to put the remaining 720 for sale once their deadline

is up, as council properties cannot be sold privately for 15 years after completion.

A further 835 properties will be for sale in Quinta da Flamenga, where 398 are already privately owned while 14 will be on sale in Alto do Chapelheiro and a further 320 in Bairro da Boavista.

This year, Lisbon Town Hall made €5.1 million from the sale of 168 properties, with a total of 97 million having been made in total between 1995 and 2006 through the sale of 5,600 properties.

During 2008 and 2009, a total of 24 out of the 73 council estates belonging to the capital were put up for sale, with a total of 1,314 houses available. Of these, 128 were sold, making revenue of €5.8 million.

Lisbon Town Hall has said that it will use the revenue gained to buy and refurbish houses as well as to help pay off its debt.



President Barack Obama with staff from the Lisbon Marriott Hotel; Dr. Luis Viegas, Administrador da SOTÉIS, Leonor Ramalho Sales and Marketing Director, Hugo Esteves from the Events Department, Ana Caetano PR Manager and Marc Cosyns, Hotel Manager.

Lisbon Marriott hotel welcomes US President

US President Barack Obama stayed at the Lisbon Marriott Hotel during his visit to Portugal for the NATO summit last month.

Ana Caetano, PR manager of the Lisbon Marriott Hotel told The Portugal News: "The President stayed in the Presidential Suite for three nights."

According to her, the

Marriott was chosen as it belongs to a US hotel chain, which the President uses often during his travels around the world as "he is used to the service and excellent security it provides", but it was the first time that he had

been a guest in Lisbon.

"Kind and polite, the President was an extraordinary communicator. He liked our welcome and the personalised service at the Marriott," said Mrs. Caetano.

Lisbon restaurant loses Michelin star

Lisbon-based restaurant Eleven has lost its Michelin star, according to a spokesman from the Lisbon Tourism Association.

Duarte Galvão from the Lisbon Tourism Association told Lusa News Agency: "The most significant piece of news is that Eleven has lost its star," during the presentation of the 2011 Michelin Guide to Portugal and Spain, which was held in San Sebastián in Spain.

The new guide features 10 Michelin star restaurants in Portugal, five of which are in the Algarve including Amadeus, São Gabriel, Henrique Leis, Ocean and Willie's. A sixth restaurant in the Algarve, at luxury resort

Vila Joya, is the only eatery in the country to boast 2 Michelin stars.

The remaining five, which are spread across the country, are

Fortaleza do Guincho in Cascais, Tavares in Lisbon, Quinta das Lágrimas in Coimbra, Casa da Calçada, in Amarante, and Il Gallo d'Oro in Funchal, Madeira.

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IKEA job concerns



Loulé Mayor signing a cooperation agreement earlier this month with representatives from the Swedish brand IKEA, who plan to open a shopping centre in the municipality in 2015.

The Algarve's regional Association for Commerce (ACRAL) has said that it's "worried" about the construction of yet another large commercial centre, following last week's agreement between Swedish group IKEA and Loulé Town Hall, which could see

8,000 jobs in traditional commerce extinguished.

ACRAL spokesman João Rosado told Lusa News Agency: "I believe that the 2,000 jobs that IKEA will create in the Algarve will have the impact of making 8,000 people unem-

ployed in the region's traditional commerce sector, adding to the 24,000 unemployed that already exist in the region."

João Rosado bases his claim on a study carried out by the Catholic University, commissioned by the Portuguese Con-

federation of Commerce in 2004, which showed that for every job created in a shopping centre, four are lost in traditional commerce.

In his opinion many small and medium companies dedicated to the furniture sector in Loulé, especially in Almancil and Boliqueime will feel a lot of pressure from the new store.

ACRAL's worry about yet another shopping centre is also based on the results of a study carried out by the Algarve's Regional Economy Authority, which showed "an excess of large commercial centres in the Algarve" since 2006/2008.

IKEA spokeswoman Ana Teresa told Lusa News Agency that the cooperation contract which was signed on 2 December in Loulé "confirms the Swedish chain's intention to follow through with a project for the Algarve by 2015, and that a way has been found to advance with the project."

Meanwhile, a further €400 million is also due to be invested in Loulé with a project from the Auchan Group named *Alegro Algarve*. This is due to create 4,000 direct jobs in a 40 hectare area between Loulé and the road to Quarteira.

Tourism licensing left until the last minute

Less than half of the Algarve's tourist developments and accommodation units have so far applied to be re-classified according to new licensing regulations whose deadline ends on 31 December, according to the Algarve hotel and tourism accommodation association (AHETA).

"Business people are leaving everything until the last minute," an AHETA spokesman told *Jornal do Algarve*, adding that the compulsory process is aimed at ending the old "parallel beds" problem, of which there are around 200,000 that affect the government budget for the region.

Guest houses, hostels, boarding-houses, motels and inns are some of the accommodation types that will be eliminated from the tourist accommodation classifications from 2011.

The new legislation will see the current 21 categories reduced to just eight, with

categories such as tourist villas, rural tourism houses and retreats, no longer in use.

Tourism property owners have until the end of this year to re-classify their establishments into one of the categories that continues to exist such as: hotel, tourist apartment, pousada, tourist development and rural tourist development.

Earlier this month however, less than half of the Algarve's tourist accommodation units has applied for the compulsory new classification.

"The process is occurring below our expectation. We expected more business people to follow through, but we believe that there will be an increase in applications until the end of the year," said Nuno Aires, President of the Algarve tourism board during a talk about the process held at the AHETA headquarters in Albufeira on 3 December.

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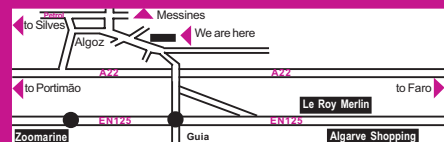
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Algarve mayors appeal for residents to boycott A22 tolls



Members of the Association of Algarve Municipalities (AMAL) have appealed to the general public to boycott the payment of tolls on the A22 or Via do Infante, which are due to come into force next year.

"The placement of the toll equipment is imminent, with the public tender process already underway," said AMAL President Macário Correia, adding that the government is not interested in speaking with mayors of the Algarve.

In a statement, AMAL say that collectively refusing to pay the tolls is the best way to fight against the "injustice".

Earlier this year, AMAL agreed with the measure of placing tolls on the A22 as long as the EN125 road was renovated first, but are now protesting after the government gave in-

structions to place 10 porticos on the A22 with a view to implementing the tolls.

AMAL requested an urgent meeting with the Prime Minister in October and also last month to ask for the introduction of the tolls to be delayed until the EN125 is renovated, which has so far not been scheduled.

Meanwhile, members of a protest group called the Commission of Via do Infante Users organised a slow moving protest which took place on the A22, against the government proposals at the end of last month.



Drivers took part in a slow moving protest along the EN125 on 26 November against government plans to introduce tolls on the A22 motorway. (Photo: Luis Forra/LUSA)

'More Algarve winter flights than ever before'

The Algarve has more flights available during the 2010/2011 winter season than it has ever had before, said Portugal's Secretary of State for Tourism during a charity presentation in Faro on Monday.

"During a difficult time, with the most seasonal difference winter entails, the Algarve has never had so many aeroplane seats available as it currently does," said Bernardo Trindade.

Speaking at a ceremony to present a €65,000 cheque from the Algarve 2010 Programme revenue to regional charity institutions, Mr. Trindade added that "there has never been as much aerial capacity as there is now."

Despite not commenting on the negative impact caused by the closure of the Groundforce handling company at Faro airport, the Secretary of State for Tourism said that "infrastructures had to be rationalised according to market dynamics."

"The Algarve has the ability to have more alternative air transport, and can by that

means reinforce its capacity and respond to the demand," he said.

Last month, Groundforce announced the closure of its operations at Faro airport, collectively firing 336 employees, due to a loss of revenue of around €20 million this year. The company has proposed to maintain the work contracts of seven women who are pregnant or breastfeeding as well as one member of 15 couples who worked for them, as a way to "reduce the effects of collective firing."

Mateus Mendonça, a spokesman from the Airport Handling Union told Lusa News Agency that no collective firing agreement was made, but that Groundforce's proposals will be presented individually to those workers who will then decide whether to accept them or not.

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Celebrating Chanukah in the Algarve



On 5 December 2010, Chanukah was celebrated at the home of Judy and Ralf in Portimão for the 20th time.

The first Chanukah party took place on 8 December 1991.

Therefore one can say without a doubt that Judy relit the flame of Judaism in the Algarve. (The Jewish Community of Faro had ended in 1946)

This year the Chanukah party was so enjoyable.

Twenty-seven people turned up with their picnics in hand. It was a big plus to have with us David Rosenfeld of the Yeshiva College of Brooklyn. He came from Lisbon by Bus, where he is staying at the mo-

ment. His brother Eli, sent dreidels, Chanuka gelt, doughnuts, chanukias and candles. All the menorahs, each with 4 candles lit made a beautiful picture! Everyone joined in singing - Ma'oz Tzur (Rock of Ages). Delicious Doughnuts (made by Suzy Goodkind) went down a treat! Judy and Ralf's home was filled with laughter and lots of voices. The community extends their congratulations to the 5 new members!

Arnaldo Guerreiro had attended the first Chanukah and remains a staunch supporter.

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The show must go on (and it did)!

Despite several set backs, the most severe, a last-minute knee injury that forced the star act to limit their performance to a token gesture, this year's Grand Night of Variety has been hailed by many as "the best to date", raising more than €3,000 for charity.



Vitor do Carmo plays the Guitarra Portuguesa accompanying fado singer Terresa Viola. (Photo: Paul Luckman/Portugal News)

This year the Grand Night of Variety took place at a slightly later date, in December. It was nonetheless, as in previous years, a full house with some 230 people having turned out for the event, held at Lagoa's auditorium.

Behind the scenes though things were slightly less consistent...

Organiser and director of the show, Jenny Grainer, told *The Portugal News* "there were a few unfortunate mishaps, but even so, I think it was the best show to date and on a whole everyone had a great time."

One of the 'mishaps' saw traditional compere Ian Carfrae taken ill at the last minute, though he was replaced by Tony Scriven who stepped in and did a "wonderful job."

However, the star act, professional Argentinean Tango dancers Cleo and Alison suffered a worse fate.

"They had already been delayed flying over from the UK because of the snow, but just before they were finally due to board the plane Cleo [the male dancer] slipped on black ice at the airport and damaged his knee."

Because of this the duo were forced to reduce their performance to just one dance, a feat in itself given the extent of the injury.

"It was really nice of them to

have come at all, but to put in a dance, filled with painkillers, it was amazing considering the agony," Jenny Grainer explained, aware that some people may have been disappointed by the curtailed performance.

One member of the audience told *The Portugal News* "This year the show was quality: when we saw the brochure there didn't seem to be as many acts as in previous years, but they really were quality acts. It was a musical extravaganza."

Highlighted by many who saw the show were the Portuguese Fado singers, who were described as "fantastic", guitar player Daryl Bye, "who had everyone singing", and the Stars Dance School dancers, who "lightened things up" with their

tribute to 'Hairspray' and were "absolutely brilliant."

All of the acts donated their time and talents to make the evening the success that it was, in the name of a worthy cause.

A raffle featuring many great prizes, including a David Haines painting, an "enormous" Christmas hamper and bottles of vintage port, among others, further contributed to the total amount raised for the Lagoa fire-fighters, which was €3,006.

For those who are already looking forward to next year's Grand Night of Variety Mrs. Grainer is keeping devotees in suspense, saying "Every year I say no and every year I do another one. But next year... I'm not promising!"

Portimão market celebrates third anniversary

Portimão's municipal market will be hosting a series of activities, special promotions and entertainment from 11 December, when it celebrates its third anniversary, until 24 December.

A huge cake supplied by the Portimão Hotel and Tourism school will be cut and slices handed out to the public and stall holders from 10am on 11 December to celebrate the market's third anniversary.

There will be special promotions on traditional Christmas products of the Algarve such as cheeses, chouriço sausages, 'medronho' firewater, wines, olive oil and sweet potatoes, throughout December.

An exhibition entitled 'A more ecological and charitable Christmas' created by local school children using recycled materials will be inaugurated on 15 December at the market. On the same day, children will be able to take part in a toy

recycling scheme at the market, where they can trade used toys between each other.

Health-wise, the market will be hosting free cholesterol checks in association with the Rosa Nunes pharmacy from 5pm until 7pm on 14 December, while on 17 December Portimão's health centre will be raising awareness about healthy eating at the market from 9:30am until midday.

Portimão market will be open on the bank holiday of 11 December from 7am until 2pm, while on Christmas eve and New Year's eve it will close at 3pm. The market will be closed on Christmas day and 1 January.

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Algarve Bowls

Tigers Roar Again – Vikings Plunder Vulcans

Tavira Tigers enjoyed a welcome return to winning ways with a 75-28 victory over the Amendoeira Nuts, taking all eight points. The two Valverde sides clashed and the Vikings emerged triumphant, beating the Vulcans by 67-35 and adding the full eight points to their total and consolidating their impressive title challenge. Earlier in the week, Vikings had played the Alvor Gladiators in a rearranged fixture and also won that by 48-42 and earning a further six points to two. Alvor Harlequins were at home to the PDF Crusaders, both teams showing good form recently. Harlequins came out on top by 69-34 and took six points to the Crusader's two.

The top of the table clash was at Albufeira where the Cats entertained the visiting Greens. Cats put even further distance between themselves and their near-

est challengers by winning 58-49 and taking six points to two. Greens losing their first game of the season. Alvor Gladiators made the short journey to PDF to play the Sinners and came away with an excellent win by 54-39 and eight points to nil. Over at Pedras, the home side had a very close and tense match against the visiting Alvor Amigos. Pedras just edging home by 51-50 and by six points to two.

Cats remain firmly out in front with 66 points followed by the Vikings, up into second with 60 points. Greens slip to third on 53, whilst Harlequins have 48, equal with the Crusaders. Gladiators are on 44, Panthers have 34 and Amigos are eighth with 33 points. Tigers on 29, Vulcans with 16, Sinners on 13 and Amendoeira with 12 points complete the table. *Alan Clarke – League Director*

J.P.'s Forget-Me-Not Day

Thursday, 17 November was a very special day for all members of the Alvor Club, a day when friends and family got together for a competitive day of bowls in memory of John Palinski or JP as he was universally and affectionately known. The 17th November was John's birthday, but he sadly passed away a few months ago, having run the bowls club with Connie for some years. His ready wit and often unconventional approach to bowls club management will be sadly missed.

A total of eighty bowlers (in sixteen teams of five players each) from Clubs all along the Algarve, took part in this new competition which will be played annually, with all proceeds (1,160 euros) going to John 'Sam' Palinski's Forget-Me-Not Fund with Leukaemia & Lymphoma Research (www.beatbloodcancers.org).

The family had put up a beautiful trophy and competition was fierce, the standard of bowling appropriate to the occasion despite a very wet start to the day.

Play eventually got under way in sunshine and the day then went off successfully to the timetable. Each team had a triple and a pair and played three round robin matches in four groups to decide the four group winners and semi-finalists. The triple and pair each scored two points for a win and there was a further two points for the aggregate victory, so this was a team effort.

Food and drink was available all day, but this did not seem to adversely affect performances as the Ospreys, the Bowling Stones, the Swishes and Sams' Apprentices each won their group to qualify. The Ospreys and the Bowling Stones then going on to a close-fought and skillful final, eventually won by the Ospreys – Alan Clarke, Judy Drewler, Janice Clarke, John Jones and Jack Pendley – fittingly a team from Alvor.

A wonderful day, full of fond memories for a much loved JP – We look forward to next year's event.

Alan Clarke

Valverde Joins Bowls Portugal



Picture of the Valverde Bowls Club green at Almamcil

Following up on last month's successful Eurofinesco sponsored Bowls Portugal tour of Spain, and the sweeping management changes reported at the Bowls Portugal AGM, the World Bowls representatives in Portugal received more good news last week.

At the management committee meeting held last Friday, Valverde Bowling club at Almamcil, the first club in Portugal to be owned and run by the members, voted to join Bowls Portugal. It is understood that they made this decision to improve the opportunities for their members to represent Portugal in the international bowling matches held throughout the world every year, and in order to become members of World Bowls.

This Valverde decision is a significant development for Bowls Portugal, who already count Vila de Luz, another of the Algarve bowling clubs successfully owned and managed by their members, as partners in the Federation.

The newly elected President of Bowls Portugal John Hewitson on his return from the snowbound UK, expressed on behalf of all the members of Bowls Portugal, his delight at the decision taken by Valverde. He stated that "The interest shown by many bowlers and clubs in

Portugal, as well as our associates just across the border in Spain is very encouraging and extremely exciting for the new team organising Bowls Portugal. We will be organising a full programme of events and competitions for all our members in the coming year. We shall be developing a Bowls Portugal squad to play at international level from the many talented and eligible bowlers in the country on the World Bowls circuit. We shall also be endeavouring to invite the Portuguese people especially, and to develop a junior participation in our sport and promote it as a sport for all ages. We already have a valuable sponsorship deal from Eurofinesco, for which we are extremely grateful and would invite any other interested would be sponsors to contact one of the committee members.

If you would like to join Bowls Portugal, the membership fee for individual bowlers is only €5.00 a year, and all are welcome no matter what club you play for, if any. If you would just like to play lawn bowls, and perhaps represent your country one day, give me a ring on 289 360849 or e-mail me at tony.gilbert@sapo.pt. I would love to hear from you!

Tony Gilbert Secretary, Bowls Portugal

The President's Baffly

The Royal British Club Golf Society played their last tournament of the year, for the President's Baffly, at the Estoril Golf Course. It was a brisk 3 degrees when the first group tee off! – so with frozen fingers and toes, 36 players, including guests, made their way round a muddy, cold course. "At least it isn't raining was the only comment to be heard". The hard going, and obviously frozen players, showed in some very low scores.

This year's Captain, Ron Goddard, was the only player to play to his handicap, coming first with 36 points and winning the President's Baffly. Second place was won by Alastair Ferguson with 33 points and third by Margot Zimmerli with 30. Fourth prize went to Graham Dewar with 28, fifth to Hans Ludolph with 26 and 6th place to Brenda Leitão with 25 points. Brenda also won the Newstead Trophy.

The D'Arcy Orders Cup – for the Best Gross score of the day was won by Ron Goddard, The Nearest the Pin for the Men was won by Hans Ludolph who received the bottle of Taylor's Port but, as none of the Women man-

aged the Nearest the Pin in Two on the 6th Hole – the bottle of Taylor's Pink Port was presented instead to Jean Judd. The Guest Prize was awarded to Karin Dekker, the Cow Bell to Sue Leite Monteiro, the Top Ten Winner was Max Zimmerli and the lucky winner of the Captain's Mini Cow Bell – Atlantis crystal tumbler – was Anita Beselin.

The 2010 trophy winners were: The Graham Paine Memorial Trophy to Ewan Rankin, the Alan Jones Trophy Best Ecclectic (Nett) to David Jackson, the Dai Evans Trophy Best Ecclectic (Gross) to Ron Goddard. Earlier in the year Chris Goulding won the Silver Jubilee plate.

The Charity that our Lost Ball Fund chose to support this year was the Royal British Legion Lisbon Memorial Fund, and a cheque for Euros 400 was presented to their representative Mark Hammer.

The Gala dinner was held at the Hotel Inglaterra in Estoril and members were appreciative of the warm atmosphere and enjoyable meal. The evening ended with Ron handing over to the 2011 captain, Bill Buxton.



Caption: Future and Present Captains, Bill Buxton and Ron Goddard



2010 JP Trophy Winners: Jack Pendley, Judy Drewler, Alan Clarke, Janice Clarke and John Jones

WRVS Social Tea

The next Social Tea will take place in the British Retirement Residence at Quinta da Fonte, S Pedro do Estoril on Tuesday 21 December at 3:00 pm.

Minimum donation for WRVS charity 1€.

To celebrate the Christmas season of Good Cheer, they will have a festive and fun Quiz.

This will be followed by delicious cakes, sandwiches and tea.

They will also be selling home-made jam; all proceeds to their charities.

Everyone is most welcome. Bring a friend! For catering purposes, please confirm your attendance with Pam on 214 688 694 or Ruth on 916 192 183.

All club items are welcome on this page.
Please send your stories to
copy@theportugalsnews.com

Algarve Bike Rides

Wednesday 8 December

2010:- Bike ride starting in Alcantarilha, We meet at the Aldi Supermarket car park at 12:45pm for a 1:00pm start. This will be a moderately challenging ride of around 30km on a mixture of dirt tracks and tarmac. There will be a cafe stop somewhere along the way.

Saturday 11 December :- Bike Ride starting at Chillimans.

We meet at Chillimans on the Almamcil to Quarteira road at 12:45pm for a 1:00pm start. This will be a moderately challenging ride on a mixture of dirt tracks and

tarmac roads and there will be cafe stop somewhere along the way.

Sunday 12 December 2010:- Bike Ride starting at De Barra in Quinta Shopping, we meet on at De Barra at 12:30pm for a 1.00pm start, this will be a moderately challenging ride on a mixture of dirt track and tarmac roads and there will be a cafe stop somewhere along the way.

For more information call Paul Beesley on 913226954 or e-mail: paul.beesley@sapo.pt or you can visit 'Algarve Bike Rides' on Facebook.

The Algarve Juniors bring the Spirit of Christmas

The Algarve Juniors, a Performance Arts group based in Almamcil are having a very busy run up to Christmas. The children opened the 'Christmas Cracker Show' for the Angels Theatre Group on Saturday 4 December at the Holiday Inn Hotel, Armação de Pêra. Here they sang their way beautifully through an introduction of three festive songs ending with an adorable acapella of the traditional

'Silent Night'.

All dressed in red and white complete with Christmas hats, they really brought home the feeling that Christmas has arrived.

On the following day Sunday 5 December the Algarve Juniors then performed a half an hour set on stage at the '3 Charities Christmas Fair' at the Vale do lobo Auditorium.

The children really encapsulated the spirit of Christmas and

sung their hearts out. A highlight of the show was the duet between Ella Smith and Eloise Hudson, both just twelve years old, who gave a confident and splendid rendition of 'All I want for Christmas' which got huge applause. With children as young as five on stage for the first time it was an event to melt any heart.

The budding stars last step on stage was on Wednesday, 8 December at the Vila Sol Hotel in Vilamoura for the Spirit of Christmas Fair for their third and final performance. All three events were in support of charity... well done Algarve Juniors!



Simple & Chic - a combined effort...

Friday night, November 26, had all the elements for an unforgettable evening as all who attended will agree. Oeiras International School (OIS) set the scene with its *Simple & Chic* dinner event.

It had a beautiful venue, fabulous food, great music, first rate performances and the warmth and good cheer of all who were present. With the support of the Câmara de Oeiras, the event was held at the Fundação de Oeiras in Edifício AITEC whose beautiful tiles and grand entrance set the perfect stage for what was to follow.

Aldeia Catering's gourmet menu, which included such delights as wild mushroom risotto, peppered pork loin with chocolate sauce followed by chocolate mousse cheesecake with amaretto whipped cream shots, was served on elegantly laid tables.

The supper-club feel contin-

ued with the entertainment provided by CAP. The Creative Arts Project (CAP) at OIS, coordinated by Ms. Maria Blanquet Brás, is an arts initiative which goes beyond the school yard and reaches out to the community.

As CAP is open to all, the association includes students, parents, teachers, members of the local community and the instructors are leaders in their art. There were quality performances by the Fox Choir, the OIS Trio, Massimo Cavalli, Ms. Rebecca Fox, Ms. Callie Welstead, and the OIS Boys Band.

The evening finished with "What a Wonderful World" sung by Ms. Maria Brás and farewell words by Mrs. Chari Empis, Principal OIS. *Simple & Chic* was a huge success and the proceeds of the dinner benefited the Centro de Idosos da Paróquia de S. Julião da Barra.



**SERVICE
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SUNDAY
DECEMBER 19, 2010
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A Guest Choir

A Special Guest - SANTA CLAUS

Mulled Wine and Mince Pies

to follow the service

www.standrewslisbon.com

Our greatest need at Christmas

If our greatest need had been information, God would have sent us an educator; If our greatest need had been technology, God would have sent us a scientist; If our greatest need had been money, God would have sent us an economist; If our greatest need had been pleasure, God would

have sent us an entertainer; But our greatest need was forgiveness, so God sent us a Saviour.

**More Community
News stories can
be found on
page 30.**

St. Andrew's Society Ball

On Saturday 27th November, The St. Andrew's Society of Lisbon once again celebrated its annual Ball in grand style at the Hotel Palácio, Estoril. It was a chilly night as guests were greeted at the hotel by the skirl of the pipes. Members of the Grampian Police Pipe Band provided a highland welcome having managed to escape a snow covered runway at Aberdeen airport the previous day. Traditional tunes filled the air and there was no doubt that an evening packed with both nostalgia and jollification was in store. Chieftain David Wilkie and other members of the committee officially welcomed both old and new faces and soon guests were enjoying a cocktail reception in the elegance of the most gracious hotel in Estoril before moving on to the ballroom for dinner.

The Reverend Graham McGeoch from St. Andrews Church in Lisbon opened the evening with a Celtic Grace which was unfortunately interrupted by a power fault. Undaunted, Graham completed his prayer. After a delicious platter of Smoked Salmon, the sound of the pipes announced the arrival of the traditional haggis (generously flown in by "Distant Brits") which was given a grand address by Norman Reid. Noise levels rose as appetites were satisfied and thanks to our sponsors, Prime Drinks, the smooth Balvenie whisky flowed. We were also grateful to Dirk Willem Gesink (Gesink Turismo Náutico Lda./O Leão Holandês) for his contribution to the evening. Further tunes from the Grampian Police Pipe Band continued to entertain guests throughout the delicious dinner.

John Goldsbroughs "Toast to Scotland" was well received by

both the Scots and their guests. He outlined the story of St. Andrew and the Saltire and praised the achievements of Scots both at home and abroad. He gave mention of the Scots innate concern for their fellow man and the virtues of the Scottish character as exemplified by the philanthropic actions of successful Scots such as Andrew Carnegie. His light-hearted jibes at the "Auld Enemy" raised chuckles in the audience before he was applauded by all. He was thanked by the Chieftain. After a further medley of nostalgic tunes, including "Highland Cathedral", it was a final "Farewell" from The Grampian Police Pipe Band who left the ballroom to hearty applause. Everyone was in agreement that they had made a very special contribution to the evening. This was their second appearance at the Ball and we hope this will not be their last!

Once again, our faithful guests from St. Andrews, the Caerketton Band, took to the stage for their fourteenth appearance. Without more ado, the dance floor was packed as Scots and their guests kicked up their heels to a selection of jigs and reels. It was not until the "wee small hours" that the strains of "Auld Lang Syne" concluded another wonderful evening. Yet again, the St. Andrews Ball had proved to be a great success with everyone. The happy revellers left the Palácio weary and foot-sore but eager for our next celebration which will be the Burns Supper to be held on the 29 January 2011 in the Quinta de Santo António, Malveira da Serra. For further details please contact:

St. Andrews Society Secretary, Theresa Adams at adams@sapo.pt



International Community Church, Lagos
Travessa de Santo Amaro 5, Lagos
www.icc-lagos.org

CHRISTMAS FAMILY CAROL SERVICE



You are warmly invited to our family Christmas service
on Sunday 19th December at 10:30 a.m.
Festive refreshments will be served after the service !!

We wish you a Merry Christmas!



Gertrud Dürnholtz plays the Spirit of Christmas Present

The Spirit of Christmas Present gives professional Grumpy Old Man Ebenezer Scrooge a much needed lesson in *Bah Humbug!*, a new version of the old Dickens' classic A Christmas Carol, presented by the multinational and multilingual Aperitivo Performance Group.

The show is colourful and funny despite being set in the Depression years of the 1930s (although Time is as flexible as might be expected in a story which visits both the Past and the Future). It can be seen in three locations this year. Firstly, on the 10 and 11 of December, at 19.30, at the group's home location of the Museum, São Brás, where appropriately festive food and drink will be available. Entrance at this location is €10.

The second opportunity is a dinner theatre presentation at the Holiday Inn Algarve at Armação

de Pêra on the 15 December, dinner begins at 19.00.

The last performance will be at the 'fringe' theatre of AL-MASRAH in Tavira on 17 December. This performance will be at the comparatively late hour of 21.30, excellent timing for those who would like to eat first at one of the many cafés and restaurants in Tavira. The theatre itself - small, basic, but with a great atmosphere and a good view (tiered, bench seating - bring a cushion!) is perfectly located in the centre of town, just across from the Cine-Teatro and the Banco Espírito Santo. Tickets for this show are a mere €5.

For more information phone 966329073 or contact: aperitivopercormancegroup@gmail.com, admin@amigos-museu-sbras.org

or visit the website of the Friends of the Museum at www.amigos-museu-sbras.org

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PREVIEW

SOUTH

Albufeira New Years' Eve Bash

There will be plenty of excitement, entertainment and music to see during the New Years celebrations in Albufeira. The city will be hosting the 2010 Grand Gala 'Pop Idol' final. And then following on from the now famous fireworks display, Diego Miranda, one of the most famous DJs at the moment will be building up the crowd, accompanied by a variety of artists on vocals.

Portimão New Years' Eve

The arrival of the New Year will be sparkling with the infectious rhythms of different artists who will make this New Years' Eve an unforgettable occasion. At midnight, the Portimão waterfront will boast a huge fireworks display, and at the same time, there will be a dazzling show of pyrotechnics in Praia da Rocha and Alvor. This years live music will be performed by the Portuguese Idol Tony Carreira from 00:15am at the waterfront.



CENTRE

Optimus Alive Fan Pack

Are you still looking for that original gift? We have a suggestion that any music lover will love to receive this Christmas. Event organisers 'Everything is New' have revealed that the Fan Pack will be available in time for the festive season. The pack includes a special three-day pass, an exclusive t-shirt, access to the VIP area as well as a guided tour around the arena, including backstage, where you can meet some of the artists who will be performing. The music festival Optimus Alive'11 will take place on 7, 8 and 9 July at Passeio Marítimo Algas in Oeiras, Lisbon. The only band confirmed so far is the Foo Fighters.



Foo Fighters

UP AND COMING CONCERTS

DECEMBER

MGMT & AMITH WESTERNS 18 Dec Campo Pequeno, Lisbon. Tickets from €30.

AUREA 18 Dec Coimbra Fnac.

ANA MOURA 25 Dec Lisbon Casino.

JORGE PALMA 25 Dec MusicBox in Lisbon.

TONY CARREIRA 31 Dec Portimão riverfront.

XUTOS E PONTAPÉS 31 Dec Terreiro do Paço Lisbon.

RUI VELOSO 31 Dec Lisbon Casino.

JANUARY

THE LEGENDARY TIGERMAN 22 January at Oporto Coliseum.

DEOLINDA 22 Jan at Oporto Coliseum. 29 Jan Coliseum dos Recreios, Lisbon. Tickets €15.

THE YOUNG GODS 30 Jan Santiago Alguemista in Lisbon.

FEBRUARY

RODRIGO LEÃO 5 Feb at Coliseum dos Recreios, Lisbon.

SKUNK ANANSIE 7 Feb Coliseum, Oporto from 9pm.

Tickets from €25. 8 Feb Coliseum dos Recreios, Lisbon from 9pm. Tickets from €29.

THE SCRIPT 14 Feb Coliseum dos Recreios, Lisbon from 9pm. Tickets from €22.

KATY PERRY 20 Feb Campo Pequeno, Lisbon from 8pm. Tickets from €25.

MARCH

GOGOL BORDELLO 6 Mar Coliseum in Oporto. 7 Mar Campo Pequeno, Lisbon.

Tickets from €23.

MARIA GADÚ 11 Mar at CCB in Lisbon. 12 Mar at Hard Club in Porto.

KATIE MELUA 13 Mar Campo Pequeno, Lisbon from 9pm. Tickets from €25.50. 14 Mar at Oporto Coliseum from 9pm.

Tickets from €30.

ROGER WATERS 21 Mar & 22 Pavilhão Atlântico from 9pm.

Tickets from €40.

LEANDRO 26 Mar at Coliseum dos Recreios in Lisbon from 10pm. Tickets from €15.

APRIL

NAS & DAMIAN MARLEY 14 Apr Pavilhão Atlântico from 8.30pm.

JULY

BON JOVI 31 Jul Parque da Bela Vista, Lisbon. Tickets from €55.

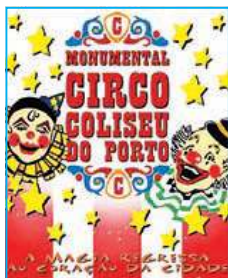
NORTH

CHILDREN

Cinderella until 12 December at Balletteatro in Oporto. Call 225 508 918.

Circo Girasol music workshop aimed at children from 0 to 18 months on Sunday, 12 December at Casa da Música in Oporto at 11:30am and at 3pm. Tickets: €10.

Monumental Circus until 19 December at Coliseum in Oporto. Tickets: €6 - €16. Call 223 394 940.



CHRISTMAS

Christmas Fantasy Disney movies soundtracks performed by the Oporto Orchestra on Friday, 17 December at Casa da Música in Oporto from 9pm. Tickets: €17.



Natal Christmas exhibition until 22 December at Palacete dos Viscondes de Balesmão.

O Natal da Árvore until 31 December at Árvore on Rua Azevedo de Albuquerque in Oporto. Visit www.arvorecoop.pt.

Christmas Bazaar exhibition at Serralvez museum until 31 December.

EXHIBITIONS

Photographs on a Journey by João Tuna at Teatro Nacional São João in Oporto until 18 December.

Look Up! Natural Porto art Show about Oporto architecture and design throughout the city of Oporto until 19 December. Visit www.lookupporto.com for more information.

Bodies Revealed at Congress Centre of Alfândega in Oporto until 31 December.

Lomography Holidays 2010 until 1 January 2011 at the Lomography Embassy in Oporto. Visit www.lomografiaportugal.com

It's Not My Fault sculptures at Berardo Modern and

Contemporary art museum until 9 January 2011.

Let's Talk About Houses Berardo Modern and Contemporary art museum until 16 January 2011.

Fragments at Berardo Modern and Contemporary art museum until 23 January 2011.

FAIRS

Stockmarker until Sunday, 12 December at Exponor, Pavilhão 5, Leça da Palmeira in Matosinhos. Tickets: €2 - €4. See www.banzai.pt.

Artesnatus 2010 Christmas fair until 23 December at Praça D João I in Oporto. Entrance is free.

Porto Belo market inspired on the London Portobello market every Saturday at Praça de Carlos Alberto in Oporto from 11am to 5pm.

MUSIC

Virtuos Clarinete on Saturday, 11 December at Casa da Música in Oporto from 6pm.

Hand-made music @digitópia on Saturday, 11 December at Digitópia at Casa da Música in Oporto from 9.30pm.

Fado Antigo, Fado Novo on Saturday, 11 December at Teatro Sá da Bandeira in Oporto from 9.30pm. Tickets: €10 - €25.

Russian Army from St Petersburg are a Russian choir, that will be performing on Sunday, 12 December at Casa da Música in Oporto from 5pm at again at 8pm. Tickets: €41.

Music in the chamber on Tuesday 14 December at Casa da Música in Oporto from 7.30pm. Tickets: €7.50.

David Murray plays Nat King Cole in Spanish on Tuesday, 14 December at Casa da Música in Oporto from 10pm. Tickets: €30.

Fantasy about Fantasy symphonic orchestra accompanied by Disney movies on Friday, 17 December at Casa da Música in Oporto from 10am, 12pm and 9pm. Tickets: €2.

OuTonalidades until 18 December at Estarreja Cine-Teatro in Oporto. Call 234 811 300.

SPORT

International Jumping competition until Sunday, 12 December at Exponor, Leça do Balio in Oporto. Tickets: €7.50 - €25. Children under 12 go free. Visit www.csiporto.com for more information.



International jumping competition



Lomography Holidays 2010

CENTRE

CHILDREN

A Arca aimed at 7 to 11-year-old children on Tuesday, 14 until 17 December at São Jorge castle in Lisbon. Call 218 800 620.

Mãe-Mão Show show aimed at children from 6 months to 3 years from 13 to 22 December at Cascais cultural centre. Tickets: €5. Call 915 816 108.

Fashion Training for children running until February at FRM Formação Aldeia do Jusó in Cascais. Call 963 956 541 on visit www.frm-formacao.com



Anjos das Alturas on Sunday, 12 December at São Jorge Castle from 11:30am.

CHRISTMAS

Group Coral do Cemm on Saturday, 11 December at Igreja da Memória, at Largo da Memória near the Botanic garden in Lisbon from 4pm.

Coro Regina Coeli and Beiras Filarmónica group on Sunday, 12 December at Graças church on Largo da Graça in Lisbon from 4pm. Call 218 873 943.



ENTERTAINMENT

Ice Ring now open at the Cais Gaia in Lisbon until January.

EXHIBITIONS

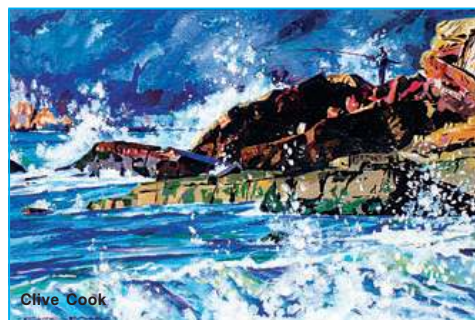
Clive Cook exhibition of oils and watercolours at 'Galeria Esperança' Rua da Esperança 24, Santos O Velho, Lisbon until 19 December. Opening times: 11am to 1pm and 3pm to 8pm.

Call 916 720 981 or visit clivecookpaintings.com for more information.

Casa-Carrosel by Fátima Medonça until 31 December at Gallery 111 in Lisbon. Call 217 819 907.

Bicos by Eduardo Batarda until 31 December at Gallery 111 in Lisbon.

Regis Gonçalves paintings until 4 December at Galeria Colorida on Rua Costa do Castelo in Lisbon.



Clive Cook

School at Gulbenkian Foundation in Lisbon until 19 December. Entrance is free.

Moçambique at AAAIO at Largo da Luz in Lisbon until 31 December. Call 214 351 054 for more information.

Professores diverse exhibition by several artists at Gulbenkian Foundation in Lisbon until 2 January, 2011. Entrance €4.

Let's talk about Houses architectural exhibition until 16 January, 2011 at Cascais Cultural Centre.

Res Publica at Gulbenkian Foundation in Lisbon until 16 January, 2011. Entrance €4.

Century XXI until 27 February at Arte Centre in Oeiras. Call 914 111 400.

Joel Peter Witkin Retrospective exhibition on show at Two Heads Chickell Gallery in Évora until end of February. Call 266 735 404.

MUSIC

Corsage on Saturday, 11 Dec Santiago Alguemista, Lisbon.

30 Seconds to Mars on Thursday, 16 Dec Pavilhão Atlântico, Lisbon from 8 pm. Tickets from €28.



THEATRE

Super Disco on Saturday, 11 December at Teatro Maria Matos from 6:30pm.

Tangible on Saturday, 11 December at Teatro Maria Matos from 9:30pm. Tickets: €7.50 - €15.

INSHADOW on Saturday, 11 December at São Luiz municipal theatre on Rua António Maria Cardoso from 10am. Call 213 257 640.

The Importance of Being Earnest by the Lisbon Players on Saturday, 11 December from 9:30pm. Call 213 961 946 or visit www.lisbonplayers.com.pt

InArte videos about the performing arts from Monday, 13 until 19 December at São Luiz municipal theatre in Lisbon from 10am. Conference on 18 December from 9.30am to 5pm. Call 213 257 640.

Snapshots until 19 December at Teatro Nacional D. Maria II in Lisbon. Tickets from €12. Call 213 250 835.

The Nutcracker and the Mouse King until 22 January at Teatro Armando Cortez in Lisbon. Tickets between €6.50 and €13. Call 217 110 895.

Most tickets are available at FNAC and Worten outlets across the country, ATM machines, Alreu agencies, El Corte Inglés, Casa Viola, Ticketline or at the event itself on the night.

Websites: www.pavilhoatlantico.pt / www.ticketline.pt / www.blueticket.pt / Phone numbers: Ticketline 707 234 234 / 707 780 000

SOUTH

CHARITY

Country Riding Centre fundraiser and activity day at the Country Riding Centre in Silves on 18 December. All proceeds and donations in aid of the Loulé-based 'Os Miúdos' orphanage.



CHILDREN

Panda Goes to School musical on Saturday, 11 December at Parchal Arade congress centre at 11am and another session from 3pm. Tickets: from €16 to €22.50. Call 282 413 147 or 282 410 440.

DANCE

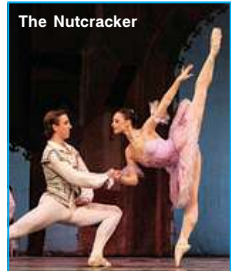
Coppelia Friday, 17 December and Saturday, 18 December at Faro Teatro das Figuras at 9.30pm. Tickets: €10. Call 289 888 110.



Planalto on Friday, 17 December and Saturday, 18 December at Lagos Cultural centre from 9.30pm.

Dance and Life on Saturday, 18 December at Faro Pedro Ruivo auditorium from 9pm. Call 289 973 115.

The Nutcracker on 19 December at Parchal (Lagoa) Congress Centre from 5pm. Tickets: €22 - €25. Call 282 413 147.



Scottish Country Dancing every Monday evening at the International School of the Algarve, Porches, from 7.30pm to 9.30pm. Call Mardie Cunningham on 282 356 029 or e-mail mardie@sapo.pt.

EXHIBITIONS

Mikki F Arab influences at Café Inglês in Silves. Call 282 442 585.

Habits and Customs of Monchique at Parque da Mina in Monchique until 31 December. Call 282 911 622.

NECI Art Exhibition organised by Dra. Maria Eduarda Santos in the old Câmara Municipal Building in Praça Gil Eanes, Lagos. Art by NECI artist Carlos Fraústo, supporting artists, Lilla Radocz, Amanda D'Eça, Bernardete Bispo, Arez Viegas, Tina Gonçalves and David Haines until 31 December.

Paintings, sculptures, ceramics and hand-crafted items for the home created by 35 international artists. Current exhibition at Corte-Real gallery in Paderne, includes American artist Jeanine Leclair, Member of the Pennsylvania Academy of Art. Until 31 December. Open Thursday to Sunday 11am until 5pm. Call 918 980 199 or 912 737 762.

100 Anos da 1ª Republica em Tavira at the Music Academy of Tavira. Ongoing until 31 December. Call 281 320 500.

Ten Monumental British Sculptures Exhibition at Cerro da Vila Roman Archaeological Centre in Vilamoura until 31 December. Entrance: €5. Call 289 312 153.

Letters and Colours, Ideas and Authors of the Republic at Tavira library until 31 December.

Estados D'Alma by Eduardo Dias at São Brás de Alportel gallery until 31 December. Call 289 840 000.

Amália meu Amor paintings by 18 artists at the Galeria Santo António in Monchique until 9 February. Call 282 913 130 or 925 004 051.

City and Rural Worlds at Tavira museum and Palácio gallery until 16 June, 2011.

Mykola Berla exhibition of oil paintings and hand carved wooden objects at the 'O Cantinho de Arte' gallery at n°24 Rua Dr. Afonso Costa in central Beja, Alentejo. Open evenings and weekends. Call 934 145 998

FAIRS

Winter Fair until Sunday, 12 December with wines and traditional Portuguese arts and crafts at Loulé industrial area. Call 289 400 600.

Feira da Serra in Loulé until Sunday, 12 December at Loulé industrial ExpoAlgarve area daily from 4pm until 9pm. Call 289 840 000.

MUSIC

Grand Amateur Fado Evening on Saturday, 11 December at Casa do Povo in Paderne from 9.30pm.



Opera Club on Sunday, 12 December at São Brás de Alportel museum from 6pm.

Monkey Mind Music on Tuesday, 14 Dec at the Pizzeria in Santa Barbara www.lapiazzapt.com - from 7.30pm to 8pm. The restaurant will be providing a varied menu for a set price of €20 a head so you can munch away and enjoy a glass or 2 of wine while the band plays blues/folk fusion.

To book a table please call Fabio on 913881331 after 6.30pm.

O Canto das Palavras on Tuesday, 14 December at Lagos cultural centre from 9.30pm. Visit www.ajtel.org for more information.



New Orleans Jazz Band at Casa Inglesa restaurant in Portimão every Thursday. Every Saturday at Tivoli Hotel in Lagos from 8.30pm. Call 935 086 365 or visit www.algarvejazz.com.

SPORT

17th Spar European Cross-Country Championship on 12 December at Albufeira Cross Country Course from 11am. Visit www.albufeira2010.com.

Portuguese International Table Tennis Championships from Friday, 17 December until 19 December at Tavira Municipal pavillion.

Bowls Crown Green and Lawn Bowls at Amendoeira. Crown Monday and Thursday, Lawn Tuesday and Friday. Start 10am. All welcome, non members pay €8. Call Peter Clarke 966 169 747 (Crown), Peter Moss 961 165 478 (Lawn).

WRITING

Writing Fiction Workshop on Saturday 11 December from 2:30pm to 4:30pm at the Bica Boa Inn, Monchique.

Writing Memoirs Workshop on Saturday 18 December 2.30-4.30 pm at the Bica Boa Inn, Monchique. All welcome. For more details and to reserve a place visit www.lisa selvidge.com or call Lisa on 962 887 680.

CARBOOT SALES

Albufeira Saturday, 11 December opposite Calicos.

Alcantarilha Saturday, 11 December opposite the civil parish council.

Vila Real de Santo António Saturday, 11 December at Praça Marquês de Pombal.

Ferragudo Sunday, 12 December at waterfront.

Lagos Sunday, 12 December at Chinicato.

Almancil Sunday, 12 December next to C+S school.

MARKETS

Loulé every Saturday at Rua da Nossa Senhora Piedade near convent.

Castro Marim Saturday, 11 December.

Cortelha (Loulé) Saturday, 11 December.

Estói Sunday, 12 December next to EB 12 school.

Lagoa Sunday, 12 December at FATACIL.

Algoz Monday, 13 December in square.

Alte (Loulé) Thursday, 16 December José Cavaco Vieira square.

Guia Friday, 17 December.

ALGARVE CHRISTMAS PREVIEW

DANCE

Christmas Dance production on Saturday, 18 December by the São Brás de Alportel dance school at São Brás de Alportel Cine-teatro from 4pm. Call 289 840 000.

FAIRS

Vale Verde International School Christmas Fair on Saturday, 11 December. Free admission. Santa's Grotto, bouncy castle, games, sports, raffle, prizes, food, mulled wine, dance performances and more. Located on EN 537 in Burgau from 2pm - 5pm. Contact Person: Blaine Harris at bharris @vvis.com or 282 697 205.

Christmas Craft Fair 11 December from 10.30am to 3pm at Silves cine-theatre. Call 282 330 242 for more information. **Castelo de Sonhos Fair** on 11 December from 10.30 to 3 pm at the old cine theatre in Silves. Lots of stalls, including paintings, crackers cards, calendars and ideas for Christmas gifts. Knitwear and many other attractions. Also we have Tony from the As Aves smoke house where you can buy or order goodies for now or Christmas, and Wendy with cheeses chutneys and preserves. All profits will be donated to the Castelo de Sonhos. At the moment the Castelo are struggling to provide nappies (any size) to the many babies of families that are registered with the charity. Bring anything that you can with you to help the charity.

Aljezur art and handicraft Christmas fair from 10 December until 12 December at Aljezur fair pavillion open daily from 11am to 11pm.

Vila Real de Santo António market on 12 December at Cacela Velha from 10am to 5pm.

Carvoeiro Christmas fair 12 to 19 December open daily in Carvoeiro square by the beach from midday until 7pm. Live music everyday at 3pm from 13 December, stalls selling sweets, handicrafts, roast chestnuts and much more! Visitors are also encouraged to walk around the town and see the festive window displays set up by local shops and associations.

Abandoned Animals Centre Christmas party 17 December from 8pm to 1am at Ayamonte Tennis Club. Tickets: €10 including buffet. Call 281 952 808 or 959 083 615 (Spain).

Christmas Fair at the Mirage Restaurant in Praia da Luz on 18 December, from 11am to 5pm, in aid of the NECI School **Holiday Inn Christmas Programme** from 23 until 27 December at the Holiday Inn in Armação de Pêra.

Our Christmas Fair on 19 December at Tavira, Ribeira market from 11am to 6pm.

Valverde Christmas Dinner on 25 December and New Years Dinner Dance on 31 December. See advert on page 19, call 282 789 474 or 962 541 124.

MUSIC

Christmas Concert on Sunday, 12 December at Albufeira municipal auditorium from 3.30pm.

Christmas Carol Group on Wednesday, 15 December Lagos cultural centre from 9.30pm.

Christmas Carol from 3:30pm on Thursday, 16 December there will be a special Christmas event at Pastelaria Do Parque in Vale da Telha, Aljezur. Festive fayre such as mulled wine and mince pies will be available for sale.

Christmas concert by Tavira band on Friday, 17 December at Luz de Tavira and Saturday, 18 December at Santa Catarina da Fonte do Bispo. The International Choir of Aljezur will arrive at 4:45 pm by lantern light to sing a selection of Carols in Portuguese, English and German. You will be able to purchase a song sheet to sing along with the choir. Song sheets are now available from Pastelaria Do Parque and cost 0,50 cts- proceeds will go to charity.

European Christmas by Portuguese Chamber Orchestra on 18 December at TEMPO municipal theatre in Portimão from 9.30pm. Tickets: €10. Call 282 402 475 / 961 579 917. **Christmas Concert** by Santo Amaro de Oeiras choir on 18 December at Olhão church from 9.30pm.

Viviane with the Algarve Orchestra Christmas Concert on 18 December at Vilamoura Casino. An Algarve event. Tickets: €40. Call 289 310 000.

Portimonense Philharmonic Society Christmas Concert on 19 December at TEMPO municipal theatre in Portimão from 4pm. Call 282 402 475 or 961 579 917.

Filarmónica Christmas Party on 19 December at Lagos philharmonic society headquarters on rua 1ª de Maio from 3.30pm. Entrance is free.

Lagos Cultural Centre Christmas and New Year Concerts: 20 December: Lacombrance Philharmonic Society. 22 December: Lagos Jazz Orchestra. 23 December: Lagos Music Academy. 30 December: Lagos Music Academ. All concerts start at 9.30pm at Lagos Cultural Centre. Call 282 770 450.

THEATRE

Bag Humburg! by the Aperitivo Theatre Group on 15 December: at Holiday Inn in Armação de Pêra (dinner theatre call 282 320 260). 17 December at Tavira Espaço da Corredoura from 9.30pm.

The opinions expressed here are those of our readers and not necessarily of The Portugal News. The editor reserves the right to edit letters or refuse publication. Send your letters, which must include your name and full postal address (even if you wish to remain anonymous on the page), and should be under 300 words, to The Portugal News, Apartado 13, 8401-901 Lagoa. E-mail address: letters@theportugalnews.com

Debt

SIR, Your writer seems puzzled as to why Portugal's debt is not flavour of the month (News Nov 27). It's really very simple. When a government is in debt due to mis-management it issues bonds. In short, it touts for money. It usually wants seriously large amounts, in the billions, so the money usually only comes from other governments, sovereign trusts, or banks and pension funds. These 'speculators', as your writer curiously calls them, will only invest if they perceive their money is safe. The less safe they think it is, the less likely they are to lend the government money. When this happens the government has to offer higher and higher interest rates to tempt lenders. Sometimes that is not enough. Russia has recently banned Spanish and Portuguese bonds from its list of acceptable investments.

The problem with Portugal's debt is not "how deep a hole are we in", it is more a matter of "can we dig ourselves out of it". That is a different matter altogether.

The USA, UK, France, even Italy, are massive economies. Lenders think those countries can work their way out of the hole they are in. Portugal is not like that, neither is Ireland or Greece. They have very small economies. Portugal in particular has a poorly educated and poorly motivated work force. It has few resources to call upon to pull itself up. Its industries are backward and small, and it is seen as a place unable to keep up with the pace set by bigger economies.

It isn't that the country owes a lot, it is more a matter of not being able to grow enough to pay back what it does owe.

The second problem is inter-bank lending. Why is Ireland being forced to take a loan it doesn't want? Because the banks in Britain, Germany and France are owed so much money by the Irish banking system. They want it back. And why does Portugal offer Ireland money? That's easy too. Your writer really should get up on all this before he puts pen to paper. It's because the Irish banks owe Portuguese banks money. So the Portuguese government lends money to the Irish Government so they can give it to the banks, so they can pay back the Portuguese banks. That's euroland politics for you.

Portugal also owes French, German and British banks rather a lot of money, and about \$300 billion to Spain, which in turn owes France Britain and Germany over

\$1 trillion. Pull out one brick and the whole thing collapses. It's a mess of epic proportions. And your writer questions the panic! You just wait until it does collapse.

JOHN CLARE, Arão

Teacher?

SIR, I am a Portuguese national, married to an Englishman with 2 young daughters, and spent 14 years living in the UK. At school 20 years ago, I left after completing my 12th year.

We came back to this country

2 years ago, and live in the beautiful Alentejo. For the past 17 years, English has been my first language. I watch British television, listen to British radio and read books in English.

Recently at my 7 year olds' school meeting the head teacher asked if anyone knew an English teacher who could come in for a few hours every week to teach some English. Very embarrassingly every mother looked at me, prompting the teacher to clarify that the teacher has to be qualified. He went on to say that the problem is no qualified person wants a poorly paid job for a few hours a week, with no travelling expenses paid!

This made me look into what qualifications are needed. Sadly it looks as though I would have to study for up to 3 years learning mathematics, science, art, geography etc., to become this qualified teacher so I could teach English at primary level.

I am very proud that at last my country wants young children to learn this important language. Obviously newly qualified primary teachers will now have some knowledge of English, but as is the case of my daughter, there are many national schools where the teachers cannot speak the language. This means someone from outside has to come in for this objective.

It is a little typical of my country that because of complicated regulations and the need for that bit of paper with "qualified" on it, people like me cannot help out. I am very aware that there is a need for a small course to learn what to teach, but a 3 year extensive course is ridiculous.

If anyone has some advice I would appreciate it, because I'm almost at the point of forgetting the whole thing, and I really feel I could do some good for our youngsters.

CARLA BIRD, Alcaria Ruiva

A Chrismal Malfunction?

SIR, It must have caused interested readers disappointment and surprise bordering on incredulity to read on Page 2 of last week's The Portugal News (20 November) that the Anglicans On Fire healing ministry scheduled to be conducted by the Revd. Peter Denton had necessarily been postponed, due to that gentleman's sudden health problems.

This does not augur well for promoting the healing activity of the Holy Spirit, which, according to the announcement in the previous week's edition of your paper involves the application of holy oil, when this activity appears to have failed to help the very one who is involved in proclaiming its efficacy. It brings to mind the words of Jesus in Luke 4:23; "Physician, heal yourself!" A cynic could reasonably be excused in this situation for observing that holy oil is really snake oil, and that Mr Denton's return to health will be the result not of the power of the HS, but the NHS!

MICHAEL BAUGH, by email

Revd Peter Denton was taken ill at the airport hotel shortly before his departure. He is still waiting for tests on the NHS and it is hoped that his visit to the Algarve can be rescheduled in the New Year. -Ed

Wikileaks

SIR, Maybe I'm missing something important, but I don't get it about the Wikileaks material. At the outset it was refreshing to learn that the launch had taken place of an Internet 'Private Eye', a vehicle through which lies and injustices could be exposed and important truths revealed. Wikileaks was sold as an effective medium for the world's 'whistle

blowers'. Millions of pages have now appeared online and I am unable to find any hard news or genuine whistle blowing. How can snippets such as 'The Kremlin is possibly run by the Mafia' and 'The headman in Saudi Arabia believes the US should bomb Iran' be called either news or whistle blowing? Most of this stuff is gossip, common knowledge and - boring. These so-called revelations are simply annoying, irritating, pot-stirring, possibly dangerous, and mainly anti-American - and benefit nobody. And yet there is a place for a Wikileaks in the context of a free press. Good investigative journalism would be lost without whistleblowers at all levels. Two of the finest examples for the common good are Daniel Ellsberg's smuggling the Pentagon Papers out of the Pentagon, telling the truth about the Vietnam war, and the New York Times' publishing of those 7,000 pages. Jeffrey Wigand's blowing the whistle on big tobacco also saved countless lives. These were acts of great courage, and of huge benefit to everyone.

NAME & ADDRESS SUPPLIED

Handbag thefts

SIR, I was recently engaged in a conversation after placing my shopping in my car; just as I'd placed my handbag in the car and was ready to leave I was approached by a young couple sat in their car with their window down. They were of Eastern European appearance and she had a map on her knee. They asked for

directions to Spain and had concerns if they would have to pay tolls. I showed them on their map and away they went.

As I was leaving the car park I noticed a light on my passenger door indicating it wasn't closed properly so I leant over, reopened it, and closed it properly. It wasn't until I arrived home that it became apparent that the reason for the door being open was because a third person had entered my car from the other side and taken my handbag, not shutting the door properly so as not to make a noise.

I returned to the supermarket and spoke to a number of staff who informed me it wasn't the first time this had happened! I went to report it to police.

Having spoken to many people of this to warn them, it seems this gang have been operating for some time - so shoppers beware - don't be taken in by the "nice young couple"!

NAME & ADDRESS SUPPLIED

Straight Talking

SIR, If your readers would take the time to enter Nigel Farage - Who the hell do you think you are? into Google, they will watch one of then most devastating examples of saying it the way it is since George Galloway's masterly demolition of the US Senate's baseless attack on his alleged business dealings with Gaddafi a while back.

Does anyone know a safe haven for our increasingly dodgy looking Euros?

RON LAVERY, By e-mail

The International Evangelical Church of the Algarve would like to invite all who live in the Algarve and are visiting over the Christmas period to come and worship with us as we celebrate the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ.

The activities leading up to Christmas are:

December 12 10:30AM

3rd Advent and Christmas Family Service (with Children's Dramatization of the Christmas Story)

December 19 17:00PM

Portuguese Christmas Family Service

December 24 19:00PM

Christmas Eve Candlelight Carol Service (with life size manger scene - see pic below).

December 26 10:30AM

Special Christmas Service with a difference!



Life-size manger in the chapel

Come and join us in our chapel on the hill to hear God's word and be blessed by Christian fellowship. Merry Christmas!

Christmas Services

International Christian Fellowship, Rua N.S. Amparo in Cedipraia Shopping Centre, no 23, Portimão
Christmas Carol Service 12 Dec. 11am
Christmas Day Service 25 Dec. 11am
Boxing Day Service 26 Dec. 11am

Christmas Bazaar

Saturday, 11th December, from 17.00 to 21.00pm at the German School of the Algarve in Silves

Get in the Christmas mood:

handicrafts, homebaked goodies, international buffet funny Christmas stories, games and music try your luck in our raffle.

You are warmly welcome to join us!

DSA - Escola Alema do Algarve,

Sitio do Lobito, 8300-054 Silves

Tel. 282 419 104



Portuguese for All

Emília Rosendo

① Put in the *Preterito Imperfeito do Conjuntivo* of the verbs in brackets.

- O Pedro ficava muito contente se nós lhe _____ (*oferecer*) uma viagem pelo Natal.
- Eu tinha mais tempo disponível se _____ (*viver*) mais perto do meu local de trabalho.
- Embora ela _____ (*comer*) muitos doces, era uma rapariga extremamente magra.
- Os teus filhos ficavam certamente desapontados se tu não _____ (*comparecer*) à festa de Natal da escola.
- A Maria pediu-nos algumas coisas: que eu _____ (*cozer*) os legumes e _____ (*aquecer*) a sopa, que o Rui _____ (*acender*) a lareira, que a Paula _____ (*varrer*) a sala e que tu _____ (*prender*) o cão no quintal.
- O atleta nº 4 parecia tão fraco que ninguém acreditou que ele _____ (*vencer*) a corrida.
- Era excelente se a nossa empresa _____ (*promover*) estratégias de crescimento interno e _____ (*concorrer*) a projectos internacionais de desenvolvimento.

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THIS LESSON:
Regular verbs in "-ER" in
Preterito Imperfeito do Conjuntivo.

- Eles gastavam muito menos dinheiro se não _____ (*morrer*) de amores por tecnologia.
- O que é que a Rita fazia se nós, por brincadeira, lhe _____ (*esconder*) o telemóvel?
- O que é que tu achavas se nós _____ (*vender*) o nosso velho carro?
- O rapaz não falava português e, por isso, nós fizemos um grande esforço para que ele _____ (*entender*) o que nós lhe queríamos dizer.
- O Jorge pediu que os pais _____ (*encher*) a sua bola de futebol e também alguns balões.
- O sobrinho da Ana queria que ela _____ (*escolher*) um jogo de computador e que _____ (*aprender*) a jogar tão bem como ele.
- Eu demorei-me um pouco mais na agência porque o empregado pediu que eu _____ (*responder*) a um questionário.
- Era mesmo bom que a neve não _____ (*derreter*) por completo até Março.
- O juiz pediu que a testemunha _____ (*descrever*) psicologicamente os acusados.
- Eles pediram que vocês _____ (*preencher*) os impressos todos?

Completed exercises can be corrected either by scanning the hardcopy onto your computer or copy and download exercises from our online pages at: www.theportugalnews.com. Send it/them as an attachment(s) via e-mail to: lessons@theportugalnews.com. Emília Rosendo will then correct and return to your e-mail address.

ALGARVE

SBC
FORUM ALGARVE
TEL: 289 887 212
9 DEC-15 DEC

SBC

- 1**
The American
George Clooney, Thelma Reuten
14.50-17.15-19.40-22.00 (00.20 Fri & Sat)
- Toy Story 3**
Animation PV
(10.00-12.25 Sat & Sun)
- 2**
Fair Game
Naomi Watts, Sean Penn
13.45-16.10-18.35-21.00 (23.30 Fri & Sat)
- Marmaduke PV**
Owen Wilson, Lee Pace
(10.20 Sat & Sun)
- 3**
Harry Potter 7: Part 1
Daniel Radcliffe, Emma Watson
(11.00 Sat & Sun) 15.00-18.05-21.10 (00.15 Fri & Sat)
- 4**
Megamind
Animation PV
(10.40-12.35 Sat & Sun) 14.45-17.00-19.10-21.20
- Saw 3D**
Tobin Bell, Costas Mandylor
(23.40 Fri & Sat)
- 5**
The Chronicles of Narnia 3
George Henley, Ben Barnes
(11.50 Sat & Sun) 14.15-16.40-19.05-21.30 (00.00 Fri & Sat)
- 6**
Unstoppable
Denzel Washington, Chris Pine
(12.30 Sat & Sun) 14.55-17.10-19.35-21.50 (00.10 Fri & Sat)
- 7**
Due Date
Robert Downey Jr, Zach Galifianakis
(10.45-12.55 Sat & Sun) 15.05-17.20-19.30-21.40 (23.50 Fri & Sat)
- 8**
Celda 211
Luis Tosar, Alberto Ammann
16.45-19.15-21.45 (00.25 Fri & Sat)
- Despicable Me**
Animation PV
(10.30 Sat & Sun) 14.15
- 9**
Inside Job
Documentary
14.00-19.20
- 22 Bullets**
Jean Reno, Kad Merad
16.40-21.55 (00.30 Fri & Sat)
- Cats & Dogs 2 - PV**
Chris O'Donnell, Bette Midler
(10.10 Sat & Sun)

CASTELLO LOPES CINEMAS
ALGARVESHOPIPING
TEL: 707 220 220
9 DEC-15 DEC

CASTELLO LOPES

- 1**
The American
George Clooney, Thelma Reuten
13.05-15.30-18.10-21.10 (23.40 Fri & Sat)

- 2**
The Chronicles of Narnia 3: 3D
George Henley, Ben Barnes
PV: 13.10-15.50
OV: 18.30-21.30 (00.00 Fri & Sat)
- 3**
The Kids Are All Right
Annette Bening, Julianne Moore
13.20-16.00-18.45-21.35 (00.10 Fri & Sat)
- 4**
Fair Game
Naomi Watts, Sean Penn
13.15-15.40-21.20 (23.45 Fri & Sat)
- 5**
Red
Bruce Willis, Morgan Freeman
13.15-15.40-21.00 (23.30 Fri & Sat)
- Celda 211**
Luis Tosar, Alberto Ammann
18.15
- 6**
Megamind 3D - Animation PV
13.00-15.05-17.10-19.15
- Megamind 3D - Animation OV**
21.40 (23.55 Fri & Sat)
- 7**
Harry Potter 7: Part 1
Daniel Radcliffe, Emma Watson
12.45-15.35-18.25-21.15 (00.05 Fri & Sat)
- 8**
Due Date
Robert Downey Jr, Zach Galifianakis
13.30-16.05-18.20-21.25 (23.50 Fri & Sat)
- 9**
Unstoppable
Denzel Washington, Chris Pine
12.50-14.55-17.00-19.10-21.45 (00.15 Fri & Sat)

CASTELLO LOPES CINEMAS
PORTIMÃO
TEL: 707 220 220
9 DEC-15 DEC

- 1**
The Chronicles of Narnia 3: 3D
George Henley, Ben Barnes
PV: 13.10-15.50
OV: 18.35-21.30 (00.10 Fri & Sat)
- 2**
Harry Potter 7: Part 1
Daniel Radcliffe, Emma Watson
12.40-15.30-18.30-21.20 (00.20 Fri & Sat)
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Unstoppable
Denzel Washington, Chris Pine
13.00-15.10-17.20-19.30-21.50 (00.15 Fri & Sat)
- 4**
The American
George Clooney, Thelma Reuten
13.20-15.50-18.20-21.10 (23.50 Fri & Sat)
- 5**
Due Date
Robert Downey Jr, Zach Galifianakis
13.30-16.00-19.00-21.40 (00.10 Fri & Sat)
- 6**
Megamind 3D - Animation PV
12.50-15.00-17.10-19.20
- Saw 3D**
Tobin Bell, Costas Mandylor
22.00 (00.20 Fri & Sat)

OV = Original Version
PV = Portuguese Version

Film Classification

The Chronicles of Narnia 3 - M/12
Sammy's Adventures - M/6
Scott Pilgrim vs. The World - M/12
The Last Station - M/12
Due Date - M/12
Megamind - M/6
Fair Game - M/12
Unstoppable - M/12
The American - M/12
Machete - M/16
Harry Potter 7: Part 1 - M/12
The Kids Are All Right - M/12

M/4 - Four years and over
M/6 - Six years and over
M/12 - 12 years and over
M/16 - 16 years and over
M/18 - 18 years and over



Title: The Chronicles of Narnia: The Voyage of the Dawn Treader

Genre: Adventure | Family | Fantasy

Stars: George Henley, Skandar Keynes, Ben Barnes, Tilda Swinton

Director: Michael Apted

Synopsis: This time around Lucy and Edmund, along with their pesky cousin Eustace Scrubb - find themselves swallowed into a painting and on to a magnificent Narnian ship, The Dawn Treader, headed for the very edges of the world. Joining forces once again with their royal friend King Caspian and the warrior mouse Reepicheep, they are whisked away on a mysterious mission to the Lone Islands, and beyond. On this bewitching voyage that will test their hearts and spirits, the trio will face magical Dufflepuds, sinister slave traders, roaring dragons and enchanted merfolk. Only an entirely uncharted journey to Aslan's Country - a voyage of destiny and transformation for each of those aboard the Dawn Treader - can save Narnia, and all the astonishing creatures in it, from an unfathomable fate.


SAMMY'S ADVENTURES

Title: Sammy's Adventures: The Secret Passage

Genre: Animation | Adventure

Voice Talents: Yuri Lowenthal, Isabelle Fuhrman, Melanie Griffith, Anthony Anderson, Tim Curry

Director: Ben Stassen

Synopsis: The life story of a sea turtle from birth in 1959 to maturity in 2009. This computer-generated, animated tale is a coming-of-age movie about growing up and friendship. Spending 50 years in the oceans puts us in an unusual vantage point to witness some of the major changes that the ever growing human presence is having on our planet.



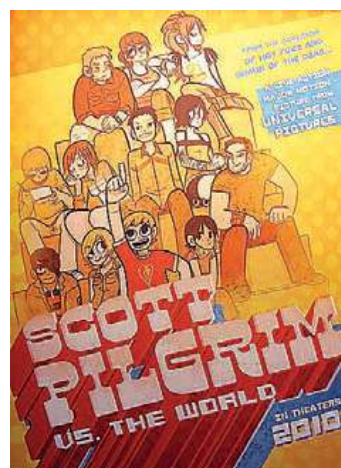
Title: Scott Pilgrim vs. the World

Genre: Action | Adventure | Comedy

Stars: Michael Cera, Mary Elizabeth Winstead, Kieran Culkin, Chris Evans, Alison Pill, Ellen Wong

Director: Edgar Wright

Synopsis: Based on the graphic novel series *Scott Pilgrim* by Bryan Lee O'Malley.



Scott Pilgrim just met the girl of his dreams. But in order for them to date, he must defeat her seven evil exes - a rogues' gallery, including an infamous skateboarder, a vegan rock star and fearsome identical twins!



Castello Lopes Cinemas
TEL: 707 220 220
www.castellolopescinemas.com

UCI Cinemas

TEL: 707 23 22 21
www.uciportugal.pt

ZON LUSOMUNDO

Zon Lusomundo Cinemas

TEL: 707 24 63 62
www.zonlusomundo.pt

SATURDAY 11/12/10

BBC1	12.01 Breakfast	12.15 Surface	Channel 4	02.25 Sons and Daughters
	12.30 Saturday Kitchen	02.35 TV Nightmares		
	01.00 BBC News			
	01.05 BBC News: Regional	06.25 The People, People, People		
	01.10 News: Weather	06.35 Yo Gabba Gabba		
	01.15 News: Weather	07.00 World Sport		
	01.20 News: Weather	07.05 Saturday Night Takeaway		
	01.25 News: Weather	07.10 The Morning Line		
	01.30 News: Weather	07.15 The Morning Line		
	01.35 News: Weather	07.20 The Morning Line		
BBC2	01.40 News: Weather	08.50 The 100 Tree Hill	Channel 5	02.25 Sons and Daughters
	01.45 News: Weather	09.30 The 100 Tree Hill		
	01.50 News: Weather	09.35 The 100 Tree Hill		
	01.55 News: Weather	09.40 The 100 Tree Hill		
	02.00 News: Weather	09.45 The 100 Tree Hill		
	02.05 News: Weather	09.50 The 100 Tree Hill		
	02.10 News: Weather	09.55 The 100 Tree Hill		
	02.15 News: Weather	10.00 The 100 Tree Hill		
	02.20 News: Weather	10.05 The 100 Tree Hill		
	02.25 News: Weather	10.10 The 100 Tree Hill		
BBC3	02.30 News: Weather	10.15 The 100 Tree Hill	Channel 5	02.25 Sons and Daughters
	02.35 News: Weather	10.20 The 100 Tree Hill		
	02.40 News: Weather	10.25 The 100 Tree Hill		
	02.45 News: Weather	10.30 The 100 Tree Hill		
	02.50 News: Weather	10.35 The 100 Tree Hill		
	02.55 News: Weather	10.40 The 100 Tree Hill		
	03.00 News: Weather	10.45 The 100 Tree Hill		
	03.05 News: Weather	10.50 The 100 Tree Hill		
	03.10 News: Weather	10.55 The 100 Tree Hill		
	03.15 News: Weather	11.00 The 100 Tree Hill		
BBC4	03.20 News: Weather	11.05 The 100 Tree Hill	Channel 5	02.25 Sons and Daughters
	03.25 News: Weather	11.10 The 100 Tree Hill		
	03.30 News: Weather	11.15 The 100 Tree Hill		
	03.35 News: Weather	11.20 The 100 Tree Hill		
	03.40 News: Weather	11.25 The 100 Tree Hill		
	03.45 News: Weather	11.30 The 100 Tree Hill		
	03.50 News: Weather	11.35 The 100 Tree Hill		
	03.55 News: Weather	11.40 The 100 Tree Hill		
	04.00 News: Weather	11.45 The 100 Tree Hill		
	04.05 News: Weather	11.50 The 100 Tree Hill		
BBC5	04.10 News: Weather	11.55 The 100 Tree Hill	Channel 5	02.25 Sons and Daughters
	04.15 News: Weather	12.00 The 100 Tree Hill		
	04.20 News: Weather	12.05 The 100 Tree Hill		
	04.25 News: Weather	12.10 The 100 Tree Hill		
	04.30 News: Weather	12.15 The 100 Tree Hill		
	04.35 News: Weather	12.20 The 100 Tree Hill		
	04.40 News: Weather	12.25 The 100 Tree Hill		
	04.45 News: Weather	12.30 The 100 Tree Hill		
	04.50 News: Weather	12.35 The 100 Tree Hill		
	04.55 News: Weather	12.40 The 100 Tree Hill		

06.00 Milkshake!
10.00 Your Sport Show

09.00 BBC Switch: Revealed.	10.10 The Gigant Show.	11.10 FLM All I Want for Christmas (2007).	12.05 FLM The Angel of Pennsylvania Avenue (1989).	14.15 FLM Avalanche Express (1979).	16.35 Live News.	17.40 FLM Airport (1970).	21.00 CSI: Crime Scene Investigation.	22.00 CSI: NY.	23.30 Cop in Crisis.	00.10 SuperCasino.	00.30 The Sopranos.	01.00 The Bill.	01.30 The Trip.	02.00 Dara O'Brian: Live at the Theatre Royal.	03.00 Snooker: UK.	04.00 FLM Gold (1966).	05.00 Close.
09.05 BBC Switch: Revealed.	10.15 The Big Circus (1953).	11.15 FLM The Night of the Living Dead (1968).	12.20 FLM The Big Circus (1953).	13.30 Live Snooker: UK Championship.	14.30 Dad's Army.	15.30 The World's Longest Landscapes (2006).	16.30 Live Snooker: UK Championship.	17.30 News for You.	18.00 Have I Got a Bit More for You.	19.00 The 11th Hour.	20.00 The Trip.	21.00 Dara O'Brian: Live at the Theatre Royal.	22.00 Snooker: UK.	23.00 FLM Gold (1966).	00.00 Close.	01.00 Close.	02.00 Close.

ITV1 London

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on

Live Music • Music
Communion • Time
Spoken Word

THIS IS
6pm • Conventio

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Info@anglican

30 ITV Morning News.
30 CITV.
30 The World's Funniest
Animals.
30 The Crocodile Hunter
Diaries.
30 This Morning:
30 News and Weather.
30 News and Weather.
30 84 London Weather.
35 You've Been Framed!
30 The Big Bang Theory
Dance Moments.
05 FLIM: Stop Up (2006).
05 FLIM: Star Line (1997).
35 London Tonight
45 ITV News and
Weather.
30 The Is It J.S.
30 The 100
30 Take Me Out.
00 FLIM: Bridget Jones:
The Edge of Reason
2004).
30 ITV News and
Weather.
15 FLIM: Bridget Jones:
The Edge of Reason
(2004).
15 The Zone, ITV News

SUNDAY 12/12/10

[illegible]

CBeebies.
19.55 4thoughtTV.
20.00 Celebrity Come Dine

[illegible]

23.35 FILM: Fools Rush In (1997)

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MONDAY 13/12/10

[illegible]

the Year: The
Contenders.

<p>Dawn Tread: The Movie Special. 12.10.00 FILM Hills of Home (1988).</p> <p>13.05 Countdown. 18.00 Deal or No Deal. 19.00 Come to the Max. 20.00 The 100. 21.00 The Simpsons. 23.00 Hollyballs.</p> <p>19.00 Channel 4 News. 19.30 Christmas. 19.55 Thursday. 20.00 Christmas Feast.</p> <p>21.00 River Cottage. Christmas Fave. 22.00 Alan Carr: Chatty Chatter.</p> <p>23.00 Prep. Show. 23.40 The Simpsons. 00.10 Music on 4 Favourites. James Bunt. 00.30 Premier League. 01.00 FILM Guilty by Suspicion (1991).</p> <p>03.25 King of the Hill. 04.00 The Doctors & Sisters.</p>	<p>The Graham Norton Show. Wednesday. 10.00 FILM The Sign: The Life and Death of a Sign Zone. The Story Zone. 11.00 Without a Word. 11.30 The Science of Power. 12.00 The Big Bang Theory. 12.30 BBC News.</p>	<p>BBC2</p> <p>09.00 CBeebies. 09.30 CBBC. 10.00 CBeebies. 10.30 Animal Park. 11.00 Animal Politics. 11.30 The Big Bang Theory. 12.00 George the Animal.</p> <p>12.40 Due South. 13.00 The Firm. 2010 with Claudia Winkleman. 13.30 Winkelman's Crack. 14.00 The Firm. 14.30 Murder. 15.00 Wong. 15.30 The Firm. 16.00 The Firm. 16.30 The Firm. 17.00 The Firm. 17.30 The Firm. 18.00 The Firm. 18.30 The Firm. 19.00 The Firm. 19.30 The Firm. 20.00 The Firm. 20.30 The Firm. 21.00 The Firm. 21.30 The Firm. 22.00 The Firm. 22.30 The Firm. 23.00 The Firm. 23.30 The Firm. 24.00 The Firm.</p>
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05.40 One Tree Hill

Channel 5	Channel 5
06.00 Milkshake!	06.00 This World: Peking Man
09.25 The Wright Stuff: The Big Breakfast	09.25 The Wright Stuff: The Big Breakfast
11.00 The Big Breakfast	11.00 The Big Breakfast
11.45 Five News	11.45 Five News
11.50 CSI: NY	11.50 CSI: NY
12.45 Neighbours	12.45 Neighbours
1.35 Home and Away	1.35 Home and Away
1.45 News in Moments	1.45 News in Moments
1.55 FLM : A Christmas Carol	1.55 FLM : A Christmas Carol
2.00 The Weather	2.00 The Weather
2.25 News at 2	2.25 News at 2
12.30 Home and Away	12.30 Home and Away
13.25 Live from Studio Five	13.25 Live from Studio Five
13.30 The Big Breakfast	13.30 The Big Breakfast
13.35 How Do You Do It?	13.35 How Do You Do It?
14.00 News Update	14.00 News Update
14.25 The Gadget Show	14.25 The Gadget Show
2.10 Five News at 2	2.10 Five News at 2
2.15 News at 2 with Robson Green	2.15 News at 2 with Robson Green
22.00 FLM : Sudden Impact	22.00 FLM : Sudden Impact
23.00 The World of Stupid Criminals	23.00 The World of Stupid Criminals
00.35 Super Casino	00.35 Super Casino
04.00 The FBI Files	04.00 The FBI Files
05.00 The World of Stupid Criminals	05.00 The World of Stupid Criminals
05.10 The Alan Titchmarsh Show	05.10 The Alan Titchmarsh Show

TUESDAY 14/12/10

BBC1	Tonight 20:00 A Touch of Frost. 22:00 ITV News at Ten and Weather. 22:30 Weather News and Weather. 22:35 The War You Don't See. 00:25 The Zone. ITV News at Eleven. 02:20 The Jeremy Kyle Show. 04:15 ITV Nightscreen.	Channel 4 06:25 Planet Cook. 06:45 Yo Gabba Gabba. 07:15 Poshly Squared. 07:40 The Big Loves Rally. 08:05 Smallville. 09:00 Ten Top Hill. 09:35 Friends. 11:00 Glee. 12:00 Channel 4 News Summary. 12:05 On the UK Family Roadshow (1980). 15:25 Countdown. 16:10 Deal or No Deal. 17:00 Come Dine with Me. 18:00 Top Gear. 19:30 Halo. 19:38 HaloVox. 19:55 4 Thoughttv.
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Sign Zone: See
Hear.
20.00 Kirstie's Homemade
Home.

[illegible]

Death in a Roman
Tomb

11.50 **TV-14**
Miranda.
11.55 **TV-14**
Newnight; Weather.
12.05 **TV-14**
13.05 **TV-14**
This Morning; Peki-
13.10 **TV-14**
This Food Doctor.
13.15 **TV-14**
CBS News.
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33.10 **TV-14**

WEDNESDAY 15/12/10

Deal.	Time	Program
15:59	London Weather.	
16:00	Midsomer Murders.	
17:00	The Alan Titchmarsh Show.	
18:00	London Tonight.	
18:30	ITV News and Weather.	
19:30	Emmerdale Weather.	
19:30	Emmerdale Weather.	
20:00	A Touch of Frost.	
20:00	ITV News and Weather.	
22:30	London News and Weather.	
22:35	FILM Falling Down (1983).	
00:40	The Zone; ITV News and Weather.	
02:40	FILM End of Days (1998).	
04:40	ITV Nightstream.	
Channel 4		
06:00	Sail Mail.	
06:05	The Traffic People.	
06:15	Planet Cook.	
06:40	Go Gobby Gobby.	
07:00	Squashed.	
07:35	Go Gobby Gobby.	
08:00	Raymond.	
08:00	According to Jim.	
08:30	Frasier.	
09:00	One Tree Hill.	
09:35	One Tree Hill.	
10:30	Friends.	
11:00	Glee.	
12:00	Channel 4 News.	

weather. Summary.
12.05 The National Lottery 12.05 River Cottage Bites.

Wednesday Night Draws 12:20 FLM : The Love Bug 13:20 FLM : The Love Bug 14:00 FLM : The Love Bug 15:00 FLM : The Love Bug 16:00 FLM : The Love Bug 17:00 FLM : The Love Bug 18:00 FLM : The Love Bug 19:00 FLM : The Love Bug 20:00 FLM : The Love Bug 21:00 FLM : The Love Bug 22:00 FLM : The Love Bug 23:00 FLM : The Love Bug 24:00 FLM : The Love Bug	Thursday Night Draws 12:20 FLM : The Love Bug 13:20 FLM : The Love Bug 14:00 FLM : The Love Bug 15:00 FLM : The Love Bug 16:00 FLM : The Love Bug 17:00 FLM : The Love Bug 18:00 FLM : The Love Bug 19:00 FLM : The Love Bug 20:00 FLM : The Love Bug 21:00 FLM : The Love Bug 22:00 FLM : The Love Bug 23:00 FLM : The Love Bug 24:00 FLM : The Love Bug	Friday Night Draws 12:20 FLM : The Love Bug 13:20 FLM : The Love Bug 14:00 FLM : The Love Bug 15:00 FLM : The Love Bug 16:00 FLM : The Love Bug 17:00 FLM : The Love Bug 18:00 FLM : The Love Bug 19:00 FLM : The Love Bug 20:00 FLM : The Love Bug 21:00 FLM : The Love Bug 22:00 FLM : The Love Bug 23:00 FLM : The Love Bug 24:00 FLM : The Love Bug	Saturday Night Draws 12:20 FLM : The Love Bug 13:20 FLM : The Love Bug 14:00 FLM : The Love Bug 15:00 FLM : The Love Bug 16:00 FLM : The Love Bug 17:00 FLM : The Love Bug 18:00 FLM : The Love Bug 19:00 FLM : The Love Bug 20:00 FLM : The Love Bug 21:00 FLM : The Love Bug 22:00 FLM : The Love Bug 23:00 FLM : The Love Bug 24:00 FLM : The Love Bug	Sunday Night Draws 12:20 FLM : The Love Bug 13:20 FLM : The Love Bug 14:00 FLM : The Love Bug 15:00 FLM : The Love Bug 16:00 FLM : The Love Bug 17:00 FLM : The Love Bug 18:00 FLM : The Love Bug 19:00 FLM : The Love Bug 20:00 FLM : The Love Bug 21:00 FLM : The Love Bug 22:00 FLM : The Love Bug 23:00 FLM : The Love Bug 24:00 FLM : The Love Bug
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11.50 CSI: NY.
12.45 CSI: NY.

Cook Off.
00 Celebrity Epiglottids.
00 Strictly Come
Twisting - Takes
17.00 Five News; Weather.
18.00 Escape to the
Country.
19.00 Sebastian Firm.
20.00 The Apprentice
You're Fired!
20.00 Newsnight;
21.00 A Home With the
Georgians.
22.00 BBC News.
22.00 Clark
LIVE London
00.00 Morning News.
00.00 Lorraine.
00.05 The Jeremy Kyle
Show.
00.10 Newsnight.
00.15 Loose News and
Weather.
00.20 News and
Weather.
00.30 Gift.

THURSDAY 16/12/10

[illegible]

His Mother's Words - Summary.
Panorama. 12.05 My Eden.

[illegible]

Show 2010.
 Nicolle's Kitchen
 09.15 The Wright Stuff.
 10.45 Trish & Goddard

[illegible]

FRIDAY 17/12/10

BBCT	Weather.	18.30 TV News and Weather.
BBCT	Weather.	19.00 Emmerdale.
BBCT	Weather.	19.00 Coronation Street.
BBCT	Weather.	20.00 Coronation Street.
BBCT	Weather.	20.00 Kitchen Nightmares.
BBCT	Weather.	21.00 The Army of Heroes.
BBCT	Weather.	21.00 The Military Streets.
BBCT	Weather.	22.30 TV News and Weather.
BBCT	Weather.	23.00 London News and Weather.
BBCT	Weather.	23.05 FLM: Mad Max: Beyond Thunderdome (1986).
BBCT	Weather.	01.00 The Zone; TV News Headlines.
BBCT	Weather.	03.05 FLM: On Deadly Nightmares.
BBCT	Weather.	04.45 TV Nightvision.
BBCT	Weather.	05.55 Fraser & Schatz.
BBCT	Weather.	06.40 The Trapeze People.
BBCT	Weather.	06.50 Yo Gabba Gabba.
BBCT	Weather.	07.15 Freshly Squeezed.
BBCT	Weather.	07.45 Everybody Loves Everybody.
BBCT	Weather.	08.10 Acorn Antiques to Jim.
BBCT	Weather.	08.35 Fraser.
BBCT	Weather.	09.05 One Tree Hill.
BBCT	Weather.	10.00 Friends.
BBCT	Weather.	11.00 Ben.
BBCT	Weather.	12.00 Summary.
BBCT	Weather.	12.05 River Cottage Bites.
BBCT	Weather.	12.20 Iron Chef UK.

FILM: Severance
15.25 Countdown.

[illegible]

Dancing - It Takes
Two 06.00 Milkshake!
09.15 The Wright Stuff

Mastermind.	10.45 Five Godard.
Natural World.	11.45 Tisha Godard.
John Sergeant on	11.50 CSI: NY.
the Streets of San	12.45 CSI: Crime Scene
Investigation.	12.50 CSI: Miami.
Doctor Who Special.	13.15 Neighbours.
Nightlight.	13.45 Home and Away.
The Review Show;	14.50 Your Sports Moments.
FLM: The Gigolos	15.10 FLM: Saw Mommy
(BBC News).	Kissing Santa Claus
17.00.	(2002).
17.15 London	17.30 Neighbours.
TV Morning News.	18.00 Home and Away.
18.15 The 100th	18.25 Live from Studio Five.
Dorland.	19.00 The 100th News
19.30.	Update.
The Jeremy Kyle Show.	20.00 Emergency Bikers;
This Morning.	Free News at 9.
19.30.	20.00.
ITV News and News	21.00 Law and Order: Special
ITV News and News	22.00.
Weather.	Victims Unit.
20.00.	23.05 Cops in Crisis.
Dickinson's Real	04.05 Nocturnal Munch.
Deal.	04.30 Street Market Chats.
The Open Tomorrow	04.55 Road Guide to
the World.	05.10 Michael's Wish
Show.	Show.

SUDOKU

Fill in the grid so that every row, every column, and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 through 9. Answers next week.

Egsv

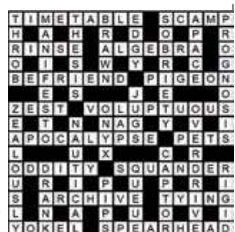
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CODEWORD

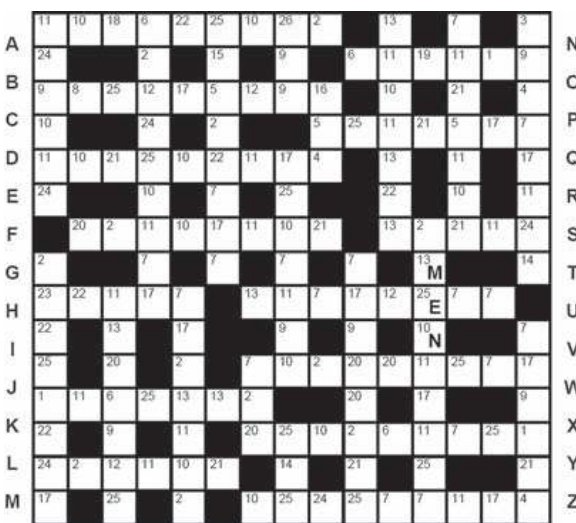
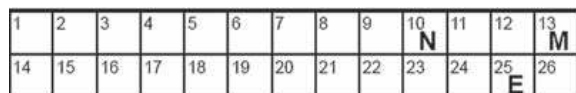
Each number in the grid represents a different letter of the alphabet. Decipher the code to fill in the crossword. Three letters are already in place and the check-box and letters either side will help you keep track of progress.



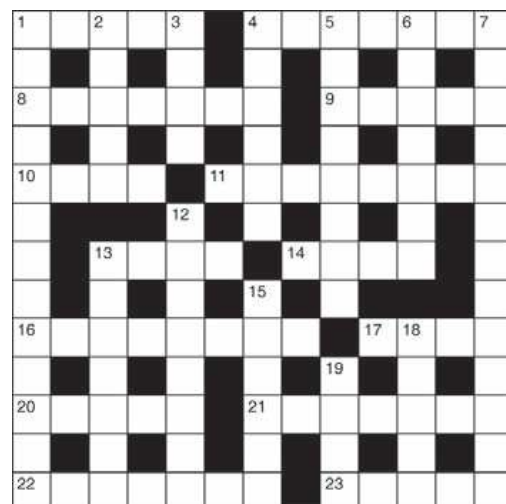
Last weeks solutions:



(Right: Last week's solution)



PRIZE CROSSWORD 1091



We have a copy of ALGARVE - ARTISTIC IMPRESSIONS for the sender of the first correct solution drawn on Thursday. Solutions by post to: The Portugal News Crossword Nº 1091, Apt. 13, 8401-901 Lagoa, or by fax to: 707941201, or scan and e-mail to: Sherry@theportugalnews.com. **(Be sure to enclose your name, address and phone number.)**

This week's
Crossword
Prize
WIN



**ALGARVE - ARTISTIC
IMPRESSIONS
BY DANIEL
HASSELMYR**

This beautiful 60 page hardback book in English and German is priced at €24.50

ISBN
978-0-9566792-0-8
Available from
bookshops in the
Algarve and:
www.d2creation.com

ACROSS

1. Converge (5)
4. Vigorous (7)
8. Weigh down (7)
9. Enthusiasm (5)
10. Froth on beer (4)
11. Fulfilment (8)
13. Adorn (4)
14. Run (4)
16. Incarcerate (8)
17. Den (4)
20. Cream (5)
21. Go on (7)
22. Protect (7)
23. Dizzy (5)

DOWN

1. Rashness (13)
2. Coconut kernel (5)
3. Pip (4)
4. Holiday place (6)
5. Clumsy (8)
6. Animate (7)
7. Kindly (4-9)
12. Mishap (8)
13. Dispossess (7)
15. Sluggishness (6)
18. Correct (5)
19. Lengthy (4)

WORDSEARCH

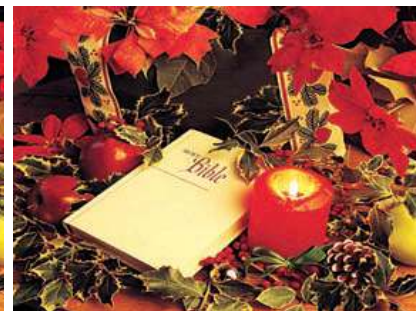
Find the hidden words within the square. The word may start anywhere and go in any direction.



PASTY, PLASTIC, LIBERAL, TAMER, HIRE, PURCHASE, DOOR, LESS, ESPALIER, PAIN,
GOOSE, AIRLINE, TRANSIT, SPENT, PULL, WEIGHT, SOBER, PILE, ARTICLED, TOM,
CATS, CORRESPONDENT, COOLNESS, DIPLOMA, REPAST, AGILE

SPOT THE DIFFERENCE

See if you can find 6 differences between the two photos.



Last week's solutions

Across: 3 Twice-told; 8 Opus; 9 Grievance; 10
Tiptop; 11 Antic; 14 Grind; 15 Cash; 16 Sharp;
18 Onus; 20 Avert; 21 Stage; 24 Manage; 25
Direction; 26 Fake; 27 Personnel.
Down: 1 Contagion; 2 Bumptious; 4 Warp; 5
Clean; 6 Tragic; 7 Lack; 9 Goods; 11 Abate; 12
Camelaman; 13 Shattered; 17 Pagan; 19
Stress; 22 Get on; 23 Pile; 24 More.
Last weeks winner: Victoria Van Hoom,
B.S. Miguel

Last week's solution:



PROPERTY

A weekly guide to the latest and the best properties on the market in Portugal • The Portugal News • 11 Dec 2010

PROPERTY OF THE WEEK

Traditional Algarvean cottage in tranquil location



This week, Property of the Week features a recently built, three bedroom traditional 'cottage' style villa with sea views, located in the hills above Santa Catarina, between São Brás de Alportel and Tavira, in the eastern Algarve.

Built in 2001, this lovely cottage-style villa comprises a constructed area of 190 square metres and sits on an ample sized plot of 5,643 square metres.

As well as three bedrooms, the villa comprises a bathroom, separate shower room, an open plan living and dining room, an entrance hall, a fully fitted and equipped kitchen, a laundry room and guest toilet.

Inside, the property has a number of rustic country living features including terracotta tiles floors, painted wooden shutters, a wood burning stove in the living room and a country style kitchen.

As well as mains electricity, a telephone line and gas connections

for hot water and cooking, the property also has a licensed borehole and a water cistern.

Outside, the property has a ground floor covered terrace, ideal for al fresco dining, as well as a roof terrace, perfect for sunbathing and taking in the beautiful views of the coast and surrounding countryside.

Around the villa there is space to park, as well as ample terraces, featuring large clay pots, traditional Portuguese cobble-stoned patios and gravel areas. The landscaped low maintenance garden features nature and flowering plants and is automatically irrigated, while an outdoor shed provides plenty of storage space for garden furniture and equipment.

Located in the Algarve countryside, this beautiful property is just a short drive from the town of São Brás de Alportel or Tavira, which feature traditional white-washed cottages and cobbled streets as well as a range of amenities and shops.

The villa is also within easy reach of the city of Loulé as well as quality golf courses and beautiful beaches with water sports, bars, cafés and restaurants abound. A day trip over the border to Spain is also within easy reach.

Due to its tranquil setting, but within a short driving distance of Faro airport, amenities and recreational facilities, this property would make an ideal investment as a holiday home or permanent residence.

The price of this property has been reduced from €295,000 to €240,000 and includes all furniture.

For more information about this property, please contact Elly van Hulst Real Estate Lda on: (+351) 289 842 992 or email: ellyvanhulst@mail.telepac.pt. Alternatively visit their website, available in English: at www.property-runner.com.



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<p>BONAU & FILHO MEDIÇÃO IMOBILIÁRIA, LDA</p> <p>AMI 989</p> <p>Av. 25 de Abril, Bloco D, R/C Esq°. 8700-011 Fuzeta Tel/Fax: 289 791 485 Fax: 289 791 488 Mobile: 917 506 365 Web Site: www.bonaulda.com</p>	 <p>Moncarapacho</p> <p>Typical country house renovated with large Patio, about 400 m2 plot size, located in a calm region. With three bedrooms, a living room, kitchen and WC with shower, windows with double-glaze and gas heating.</p> <p>Ref: 2015 Price reduced: € 149.000</p>	 <p>Moncarapacho</p> <p>Well maintained 3 bedroom villa located in a very quiet area with lovely country views surrounded by a easy to maintain garden with 3.300m2 land. The Villa has three good sized bedrooms (15-19m2) being one en-suite and with private terraces. Comfortable lounge with fireplace and Patio doors to the outside terraces, dining room and good sized kitchen. Recently the house was updated with double glazing.</p> <p>Ref: 2014 Price: € 320.000</p>	 <p>Fuseta</p> <p>Excellent waterfront localization, apartment two bedrooms, situate in the first floor, separated by a road from the nature park "Ria Formosa" and the beaches from Fuseta. The Apartment consists of two bedrooms (one en-suite), one living room, kitchen, bath, hall, storeroom, garage (32m2), terrace 36m2 and high quality finishing.</p> <p>Ref: 2001 Price: € 215.000</p>	 <p>São Brás de Alportel</p> <p>2+1 Villa located in a clam hillside. The property was built in 2004 with attention to open space living areas. Ground floor by a large kitchen/lounge area with fireplace, one bedroom and a WC. The first floor offers on bedroom and one mezzanine usable as office/bedroom with sight over the lounge area. In the basement are the technical appliances and the possibility to increase the property by one additional apartment. The properties offers a beautiful country view. About 3km from São Brás. 25min to the airport and 20min to beaches.</p> <p>Ref: 2000 Price: € 398.000</p>
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<p>Villas Luz Sec. de Mediação Imobiliária, Lda Villas Luz, Lda</p> <p>AMI nº 3728</p> <p>Email: office-paula@silver-coast-properties.net</p> <p>Mob. (00351) 919 054 792 Office: (00351) 262 989 452 Fax. (00351) 262 990 514</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">www.silver-coast-properties.net</p> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around;"> <div data-bbox="311 1041 686 1321">  <p>Large 4-bedroom villa beautifully located in a quiet neighb. w/ sunny bedrooms, nice rustic decoration inside. Surrounding area w/ garden, mature trees & panoramic views to the woods. 320.000 Euros</p> </div> <div data-bbox="686 1041 901 1321">  <p>Magnificent 3-bedroom Villa w/ superb views to the Atlantic, sw. pool, garden & BBQ. Fantastic opportunity to have a detached first line property at walking distance to the beach. 450.000 Euros</p> </div> </div> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Full address: Avenida Marginal, Edifício Infante I, Loja 5, 26i, 2460-096 São Martinho do Porto, Portugal</i></p>
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YOUR event or see what's on**Get those jobs done with a little help from DIY guru Julia Gray.**

Top tips on insulating and draught proofing your home to help get through the big freeze.

:: If you've got a fireplace that isn't in use, heat's being lost up the chimney, and cold air's coming down it. Solve the problem

by sealing off the opening to the chimney above, either by boarding over it, stuffing it with loft insulation or old curtains, or fitting

a chimney balloon, which can be deflated if you want to use the fireplace.

:: Blinds look great, but having both blinds and curtains will keep more heat in and cold air out. Putting up a curtain pole is relatively easy for DIYers to do, as long as you have a good screw driver and an electric cable

and pipe detector so you don't drill into anything you shouldn't.

:: If a radiator feels cold at the top, air's trapped in it so it isn't filling fully with hot water. To solve the problem, cover the floor under the bleed valve (usually at the side of the radiator) with newspaper or a dustsheet,

insert a radiator

key or small screwdriver and carefully turn it until you hear air escaping. When water starts coming out, quickly shut off the valve. Only bleed your radiators when they're cold and the heating's turned off.

:: Fill the gaps around your skirting boards and window and door frames with flexible filler. General flexible filler is rubbery and can't be sanded so you need to apply it neatly, but flexible wood filler can be sanded in

the normal way.

:: Got a big gap at the bottom of an internal door? This can let lots of cold air in, especially if the door opens onto your hall. Screw a brush draught excluder onto the hall or landing side of the door, make or buy a fabric 'sausage' to plug the gap, or fix a piece of wood to the bottom of the door. Once this is done, fill, sand and paint over it - probably not the most attractive solution but a better quick fix than going to the trouble of sizing and fitting a new door.

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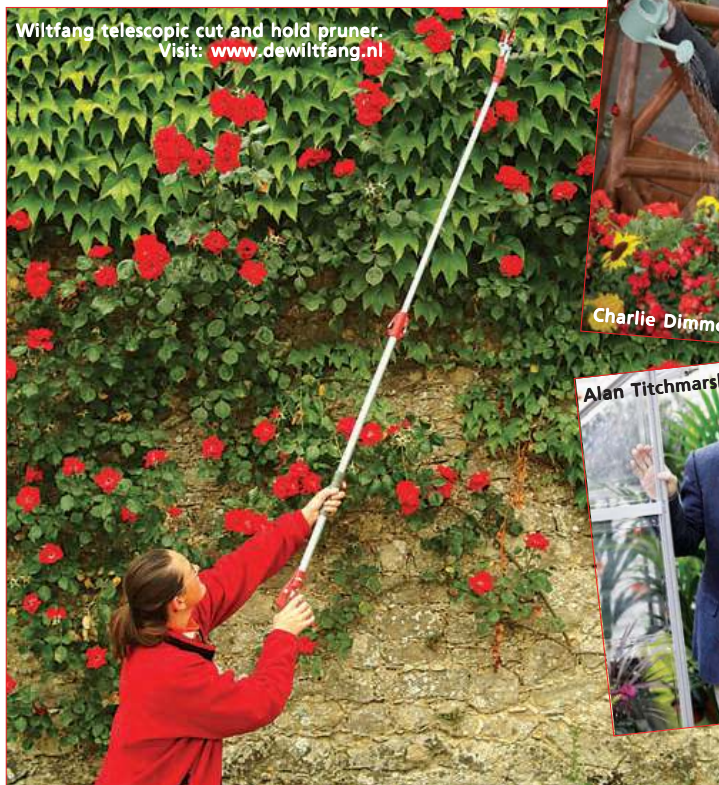
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All I want for Christmas



Hannah Stephenson talks to a bunch of celebrity gardeners and asks what's on their Christmas list this year

What do you give the celebrity gardener who has everything? Here's a few of the items on their wish list which may provide gift seekers with a little inspiration.

• Gardening writer and presenter Alan Titchmarsh says: "I've just discovered a great Dutch supplier of garden tools called de Wiltfang (www.dewiltfang.nl) and would love one of their long-arm pruners which has a pair of secateurs at the end of a 2m pole. Great for pruning fruit trees without a ladder!"

And what would he give? "I'd be happy to make any gardening friend a present of a de Wiltfang garden sprinkler - great for the veg patch since it's made of brass and steel and so lasts much longer than plastic models. Mine was hugely useful last summer."

• TV gardener Charlie Dimmock, who has downed tools for the festive season to appear in

a pantomime in Windsor, says: "At the moment I'm after a folly to go at the end of my garden. I would much rather have that than a statue as a focal point. I have an avenue of lavender hedge and a pretty holly hedge with an arch in it and the folly would be beyond that."

"I'd also like to receive some hardy shrubs with bold foliage, such as variegated fuchsia or pittosporum, to give a backdrop to my herbaceous border."

What would she give? "You can never have enough secateurs - the number of times I've put a pair down and can't find them again - so I'd buy gardening friends some good quality secateurs such as Felco."

• Award-winning garden designer and TV broadcaster Chris Beardshaw, whose new series of *Get Up & Grow* airs on BBC Northern Ireland next spring, says: "When I am not in the gar-

den I love to be out on my road bike and so if I could have anything for Christmas it would be a bamboo bike. I had the pleasure of riding one recently and far from being a gimmick it is a serious contender to carbon or aluminium frames and it was an incredible piece of engineering. The bamboo is reputed to be the lightest and the strongest material available and the fibrous structure of the bamboo provides great shock absorbercy." For information on bamboo bikes go to www.bikebamboo.com.

What would he give? "If money was no object I would buy someone a mini digger for Christmas. There is not much else I can think of which provides so much fun on a garden site. You can become your own 21st century Capability Brown with a mini digger and get really creative. You can use it to dig out and shape a pond for wildlife, create earth mound sculptures or carve out terracing. The only thing is it might be a bit hard to wrap."

• Christine Walkden, plantwoman and regular gardening expert on BBC1's *The One*

Show, says: "I would love an Access mini-greenhouse frame. I have one already and find it so useful that I would love another. Being attached to the house it benefits from the heat lost through the house."

"It's so useful for raising plants in the spring and for growing tomatoes during the summer and in the winter I use it for over-wintering my non-hardy plants." Details of Access mini-greenhouses on www.garden-products.co.uk or phone 01788 822301.

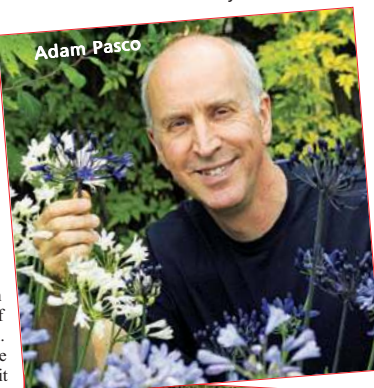
"The gift I would love to give is a day's course at a horticultural college or other establishment where the gardener could see skills being demonstrated and then given the opportunity of having a go themselves. There is nothing like doing it practically."

• Adam Pasco, editor of BBC Gardeners' World magazine, says: "I'd be eternally grateful if someone could give me the ultimate control for slugs and snails, but would settle for regular visits by my favourite garden visitor, the song thrush, if that could be arranged."

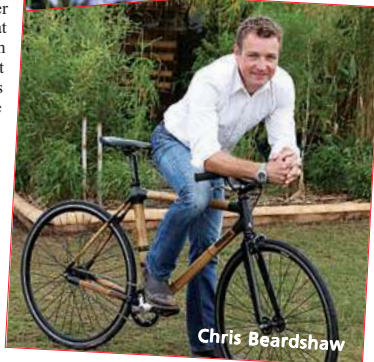
"Otherwise, I'd like to increase

my garden's productivity by extending the cropping season. I grow my salads and crops in deep beds - timber edged beds about 1m wide, full of enriched soil. I'd love cloches that fit neatly over each bed that help warm and protect early sowings to produce earlier harvests, and also keep crops going through winter."

What would he give? "Gifts that grow are the best gardening presents for gardeners. Plants given by friends produce a personal bond that you remember every time you look at the plant. My choice would be a fabulous new fragrant rose called 'The One And Only'. It's the most beautiful red hybrid tea rose with a delicious, intoxicating



Adam Pasco



Chris Beardshaw

scent. This is THE rose to give as a gift to someone special in your life, as its name says it all. The roses open into magnificent full double blooms that really need to be admired close-up in your home." The rose is available from www.thompson-morgan.com



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Good enough to eat - Swiss chard (Leaf beet)

With its colourful stems in shades of red, pink, yellow, white and orange, this easy-to-grow vegetable, rich in iron, is as valued for perking up the look of the vegetable border in winter as it is for its taste. Swiss chard, often grown as an alternative to spinach, should be grown on an open site, in fertile, moist soil, and makes a colourful contrast at the front of a mixed border in winter. Ruby chard is an attractive variety with ruby-red stems, while rainbow chard has a mix of gold and red-stemmed types which look great in the winter garden planted along-

side a dogwood with its coloured stems. Sow seeds from spring to late summer, to harvest throughout the year. If you are growing single plants to produce large leaves for cooking, sow seeds in a tray and plant out once they have germinated, spacing them about 45cm (18in) apart. For cut-and-come-again crops, sow directly into the soil, making a wide drill and sowing thinly. It's an easy veg, so if you weed it and keep the soil moist in dry weather you won't go far wrong. Harvest large leaves for cooking individually, but don't cut too close to the plant.

Three ways to... Use pots in contemporary design

1. If you want the pot to make an impact, select the pot for its architectural shape rather than plant-holding abilities. Sometimes the pot will provide more of a wow factor without a plant in it.

2. Buy identical pots for a strong statement - a row of three tall containers, for instance, will look more impressive than a group of pots of different shapes, sizes and colours.

3. If you want a burst of colour in a space, consider using a pot rather than a plant for that purpose.

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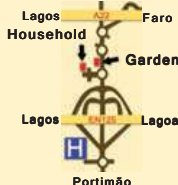
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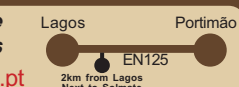
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Anne Green with Chef Bernard Luciano



Cristina Teixeira, Noreen & Jos Zweegers and Hilary Goulden enjoying themselves



Mette Ahlgreen, Jorgen Fuglsang and Anneli Lindroos comparing Nordic Area notes

French connections for the Algarve wine society

Le Meridien Penina was the setting for the Algarve Wine Society's annual Christmas festivities last Saturday.

Contrary to previous tradition, the event was held in the evening and took the form of a "Wine Pairing" devised by Executive Head Chef Bernard Luciano. The Chef first selects his wines and then cooks a meal accordingly and, as was discovered, it was a highly successful formula. It was an interesting fact of this function that this was originally a French concept, Chef Bernard Luciano is French, Mathieu de Tonnac, the youthful General Manager of the Hotel, is French and, indeed, the sponsoring Douro based wine maker and owner of Odisseia, Jean Hugues Gros is French.

Just under fifty people, a mixture of members and those on the waiting list for membership, gathered in the lovely, beautifully decorated Sagres room to enjoy a wonderful array of canapés and an Espumante Bruto Quinta de Santa Cristina.

On being seated the wine maker, Jean Hugues Gros, was introduced by Anne Green, MC, and after giving a little background on himself and his label, he proceeded to give a short resume on the character of each of the wines he was

providing. The sponsorship of the wines, it should be said, was being done in conjunction with Odisseia's agent in the Algarve, Sulvintage, which has just opened a wine outlet near the Club Náutico in Portimão.

Dinner itself commenced with an Odisseia Branco 2009. Lovely, flowery and fruity. It was served with a magnificent, specimen Tiger Prawn on a satay of pistaccio and peanuts. Delicious.

This was followed by a more complex white wine, an Odisseia Reserva Branco 2008, more grown up and with a hint of new wood. This time the Chef served a ballotine "Mi Cuit" of Foie Gras served with a quince chutney and wild pink peppercorns from the Monchique hills. The latter, surely, a first for many and attractively presented on the tongs!

Next came an Odisseia Grand Reserva Tinto 2007, magnums thereof, decanted. A wine with a perfect balance of ripe fruit and wood. It was accompanied by a lovely pink, rack of Roasted Lamb sitting on a chestnut risotto with black truffle essence.

Finally an LBV port com-



Jurgen & Isabella Lange in the festive spirit

plemented a Dark (rich) chocolate and blueberry Fondant with wild berries.

As in all previous years a free draw of wonderful wines and ports was held with a good representation of those in the room going home delighted with their winnings. Dancing to Nigel and Sarah of "Collars and Cuffs" commenced and those with the energy danced the night away. A majority of the revelers availed themselves of the wonderfully soft, exceptionally comfortable beds that the hotel could offer and en-

joyed a hearty breakfast the next morning.

This Christmas dinner concluded the Algarve Wine Society's 2010 program, although 2011 will be off to a fast start with a tasting at the Tivoli Hotel in Vilamoura on Saturday, January 22. Membership in The Algarve Wine Society is at its upper limit, and there is a waiting list, but if you would like information about the Society please contact the Secretary, Larry Hampton, by email: hampton@mail.telepac.pt



Kurt Gillig & Anna Ferran

Special Christmas Lunch

Saturday the 4th December was a one of those rare days in the Algarve when the usually clear skies were dull and chilly from dawn to dusk, quite unlike the micro climate at Vila Joya where the Chaîne des Rôtisseurs held their very special Christmas lunch because right from the start there was an atmosphere of warmth and friendliness as almost fifty members and friends were welcomed by kisses, hugs and handshakes and glasses of bubbly.

Before the lunch began there was a short presentation of the Fita Preta wines we were to be served by the charming and eloquent David Booth. There were five wines in all, the first of which was the highly noticeable white wine called Sexy. It is not a name anyone could forget and while most of us had seen it on the shelves, very few had tasted it or imagined how well it would accompany the numerous little pre lunch canapés. The feast began in earnest with a lovely Duo of Langoustines with Papaya and hot and spicy vinaigrette teamed with a glass of Fita Preta Branco.

Vila Joya is one of very few places where visitors might be lucky enough to encounter Sot l'y Laisse, tender morsels of the sweetest flesh of a chicken, so it was a delicious treat to be served with a warming Truffle Cappuccino with Sot L'y Laisse which was well matched with Palpite Tinto 2006. A small but flavoursome noisette of Grouper with a duo of Pepper and Celery Ravioli was served and much complimented by delicious Palpite Branco 2008. Finally the meat course arrived. From Spain, a special Merino Entrecôte with marrow crust on a Potato and Onion purée – delicious – and as befitted a great dish, a great wine, Fita Preta 2007 Tinto.

After all those savoury dishes it was time for something light and sweet; what better than a Crispy Cannelloni with a Champagne sorbet teamed with a sip or two of delicious Moscatel Roxo 1999 from Domingos Soares Coleção Privada. Hmmm, contentment.

Vive La Chaîne and vive la bonhomie, with which it always goes hand in hand.

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Gifts good enough to eat

Food author Annie Bell talks to Sarah O'Meara, and styles up a selection of homemade recipes to create gorgeous, vintage-looking Christmas gifts from her book *Gifts From the Kitchen* by Annie Rigg.

Chocolate and hazelnut spread

(Makes 1 X 450g Jar)
75g blanched hazelnuts
100g dark chocolate (72% cocoa solids), chopped
100ml condensed milk
1-2tbsp hazelnut oil
pinch of salt
3-4tbsp hot water

Preheat the oven to 180C/gas mark 4. Tip the hazelnuts on to a baking sheet and toast in the preheated oven for 5-7 minutes, until pale golden. Remove the nuts from the oven and cool slightly. Tip the warm hazelnuts into a food processor and chop until they become an almost smooth paste.

Gently melt the chocolate, condensed milk and hazelnut oil in a small pan over a low heat. Stir until smooth and add to the hazelnut paste in the food processor. Add a pinch of salt and blend, then add the hot water and blend

again until the mixture has a thick, spreadable consistency.

Spoon into a pretty sterilised jar and leave to cool. Cover with a lid and label when cold.

This will keep in the fridge for up to two weeks.



Vin D'oranges (Makes 2 X 500ml Wine Bottles)

750ml fruity rose wine
100ml vodka
100ml brandy
1 vanilla pod
1 large or 2 small cinnamon sticks
200g caster sugar
3 large Seville oranges
1 lemon

Pour the wine, vodka and brandy into a large (3 litre), sterilised jar. Split the vanilla pod in half and add to the jar with the cinnamon and sugar. Seal securely and give it a good shake to dissolve the sugar into the alcohol.

Wash the oranges and the lemon and pat dry on kitchen paper. Cut the fruit in half and then into 5mm thick slices. Add the sliced oranges and lemon to the jar, seal and shake again.

Leave the vin d'oranges in the fridge for about one month, giving it a good shake every now and then. Strain, decant into pretty sterilised bottles and label.

This will keep, decanted, in the fridge, for two to three months.



Oatmeal biscuits for cheese

(Makes 25-30 biscuits)

50g oat bran or oatmeal
175g wholemeal flour
2tsp baking powder
1tsp dried mustard powder
1/2tsp freshly ground black pepper
1tsp sea salt
100g unsalted butter, diced and chilled
2tbsp golden caster sugar
3tbsp milk
Plain flour, for rolling

Sift the oat bran, flour, baking powder, mustard powder, pepper and salt into a large bowl and add any bran left in the sieve. Tip into the bowl of a food processor and add the diced butter and caster sugar.

Using the pulse button, process the mixture until the butter has been rubbed into the flour. Add the milk and pulse again until the mixture comes together to form a dough. Put it on to a flour-dusted work surface and knead very lightly to just bring it together. Cover with a clean cloth and set aside for 15 minutes.

Meanwhile preheat the oven to 180C/gas mark 4 and line two baking trays with non-stick baking parch-

ment.

Lightly flour the work surface again, then roll the dough slightly thicker than a pound coin and cut out shapes, using a biscuit cutter. Re-roll any trimmings.

Prick the biscuits with a fork, arrange on the prepared baking trays and bake on the middle shelf of the preheated oven for about 12 minutes, or until starting to turn golden at the edges. You may need to swap the trays over halfway through cooking.

Cool the biscuits on the baking trays for two minutes, then transfer them to a wire cooling rack.

Stored in an airtight tin, these biscuits will keep for a couple of weeks.



(Makes 20-24 pieces)

Cashew and almond barfi

200g unsalted cashews
200g ground almonds
125g caster sugar
397g can of condensed milk
75ml full fat milk
1/2 tsp ground cardamom
1tsp rosewater

2tbsp clarified butter or ghee
6 sheets of edible silver leaf

Line a 20cm square baking tin with lightly oiled baking parchment. Tip the cashews into a food processor and blend until finely ground. Add the ground almonds and pulse for a further 30 seconds. Mix with the caster sugar, condensed milk, full-fat milk, ground cardamom and rosewater.

Heat the clarified butter or ghee in a large non-stick frying pan and add the nut mixture. Stir constantly over a low heat for about 10-15 minutes, until the mixture

thickens and comes away from the pan smoothly in a thick mass. It should be the consistency of a loose bread dough or choux pastry.

Tip the mixture into the prepared tin and spread level with either a palette knife or a rubber spatula. Leave to cool for 10 minutes.

Very carefully peel one sheet of silver leaf at a time from the book and lay on the surface of the barfi to completely cover it. Leave to set completely, then cut into diamonds with a sharp knife or a pizza wheel.

Package in a single layer in a shallow box lined with waxed or non-stick baking parchment.

Stored in an airtight container, these will keep for up to one week.



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- Tomato basil soup

MAIN DISHES TO CHOOSE FROM

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 - Roast beef
 - Wild mushroom strudel Madeira sauce
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- Christmas pudding with brandy cream
 - Coffee
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On the surface, my family's decision to spend a weekend in Eynsham was not too dramatic a change of pace.

Our UK family home is also in a medieval town represented by a Conservative MP (though not, as in Eynsham's case, David Cameron), near a University city (Cambridge rather than Oxford), and has the odd stately home on its doorstep, although rather smaller than Eynsham's Blenheim Palace.

The reason for our move was the prospect of spending time in a grand period home, rather than our detached, modern house.

On our first day in east Oxfordshire, we tramped through the fields behind Eynsham town, coming across country pile after country pile. But as the temporary owners of a local Georgian townhouse (vivat-trust.org), we felt nothing but neighbourly good cheer for these lucky folk.

And while the sound of military planes roaring overhead from RAF Brize Norton did occasionally threaten to drown out conversation, no level of noise could smother the happy sound of six people talking about their move, albeit temporary, up the social ladder.

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Mulberry House is one of its newest properties, sleeping seven. It was the home of a single lady whose son kindly passed management of the home to the charity.



The Great Hall in Blenheim Palace

Home is where the heart is, as Sarah O'Meara discovers with a trip to Oxfordshire.

You can still feel the edifying, gentle presence of the former owner in every room, decorated as the Grade II-listed building is with drawings of flowers, landscapes, framed tapestries, colourful pottery - and plenty of elegant, culturally significant books.

Surrounded by such a rich inheritance during our weekend break, the group fell naturally into happy habits of reading, relaxing, playing charades and drifting leisurely from room to room in search of more fun pursuits - before heading out into the fresh air to clear our heads.

With Aga-related songs in our hearts, we enjoyed walks around the Eynsham countryside, chattering non-stop about the house's elegant curtains with pulleys, embroidered chair covers and antique furniture.

We discovered that there really is no better place than Oxford-

shire to pretend to live in the past. One afternoon we rounded a corner and found a tank in someone's back field, apparently placed there as an historic ornament (we hoped).

Further up the road we found the Mason Arms pub in the small village of South Leigh, where the clock apparently stopped circa 1954. As we sat by the fire, a group of red-faced, blazer-wearing men entered and began to puff contentedly on cigars, while sipping Vermouth.

Metres away, surrounded by sepia photos of men sitting in classic racing cars grinning widely, we enjoyed our beers and then left... just in case the ladies in our party suddenly lost their right to vote.

After a few days of general pottering, it was time for a proper group trip. Blenheim Palace, home to the 11th Duke and Duchess of Marlborough and birth-

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Blenheim Palace



A bedroom at Mulberry House



The sitting room of Mulberry House



Mulberry House, Eynsham, Oxfordshire

place of Winston Churchill, is a few minutes' drive from Eynsham and has just opened for its festive season.

Towering Christmas Trees fitted snugly in the 20-metre high Great Hall when we arrived and Christmas peeped from every 18th century alcove as we moved around the palace (www.blenheimpalace.com).

Built to celebrate the first Duke of Marlborough's victory at the battle of Blenheim in 1704, the scale of grandeur reflects some of the more racy moments of its social history.

When Consuelo Vanderbilt - an American heiress with a weakness for French furniture - married a Marlborough, her love of all things European led to an influx of tapestries, elaborate panelling and paintings to rival Versailles.

This perfect 19th century marriage of American dollars and European taste transformed this bankrupt estate into a fairytale setting - and although the marriage may have been socially engineered and fundamentally

flawed, it's now an historic architectural legacy attracting millions each year. Its last, most significant guests were film producers shooting a new version of Gulliver's Travels, which is due to be released on 22 December this year.

In the nearby village of Bladon, Churchill's imposing grave in a classically English churchyard offers a moving and distant view through the trees of his childhood home.

After a day spent dreaming of living lives as unhappy, yet well furnished, aristocrats, we left the estate and headed to the nearby village of Kingston Bagpuize, affectionately called Bagpuize by locals, in search of the country house restaurant Fallowfields (www.fallowfields.com).

Post-suffocating luxury, it was a pleasure to be welcomed into a more modern environment. At this award-winning and ethically-minded restaurant, the fruit and vegetables come from their kitchen garden, the pork, beef, eggs, chicken and duck from their farm - and everything else from

local Oxfordshire suppliers.

The wonderfully short menu suggested everything would be good, so after some stiff G&Ts to get the party going, we tucked into lush soups, juicy terrines and sweet plates of fish, before attacking main courses of local venison, well cooked sirloin and tender Fallowfields rare breed pork.

Then, there was nothing for it, but to hail a hansom cab and settle in front of the fire, for another jolly game of cards.

Key facts: Eynsham, Oxfordshire

- Best for: Cosy weekends away with friends and family.
- Time to go: Winter - so you can light that fire.
- Don't miss: Eating Venison Loin Roast at Fallowfields restaurant.
- Need to know: Blenheim Palace is magical at Christmas.

Travel facts

Sarah O'Meara was a guest of Vivat Trust Holidays, which offers minimum three-night self-catering stays at Mulberry House (sleeping seven) from £507 / €598 in its 2011 brochure, with seven nights from £780 / €921. Peak season (Aug) prices are £860 / €1,015 and £1,322 / €1560 respectively.

Vivat's 2011 brochure is available in mid-December, when it launches a new website (www.vivat-trust.org) which will accept online bookings and non-returnable deposits (one third of total charge).

For more information about local tourist attractions and events in Oxfordshire visit www.visitoxfordandoxfordshire.com or for details of local walks visit www.oxfordshire.gov.uk and search for Oxfordshire Countryside Access Map.



Sarah O'Meara by the fire in Mulberry House

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Why reality scares McKeith



Gillian McKeith displayed her phobia on I'm A Celebrity Get Me Out Of Here!

As I'm a Celebrity... Get Me Out of Here! contestant Gillian McKeith very publicly displayed her fear of insects, Lisa Salmon speaks to the experts about why people have phobias, and the best ways of dealing with them

The jungle's teeming with creepy-crawlies - and if you've got an insect phobia, it's not a good place to be.

Nevertheless, the Australian jungle is exactly where Gillian McKeith chose to go to take part in I'm A Celebrity... Get Me Out of Here!, despite having not only a phobia of insects, but also of water, heights and rats.

Her utter terror when in the presence of "anything that moves" has led to a somewhat sadistic Brit-

ish public repeatedly voting for her to face Bushtucker Trials, which often involve braving insect-related tasks to win food for the camp.

As a result, the You Are What You Eat TV presenter has passed out and been revived with oxygen on several occasions.

So why did she agree to go on the show in the first place? ITV says celebrities are always asked about their fears and phobias before entering the jungle, and are made aware of the nature of the challenges they'll face.

Before the show started, McKeith herself admitted: "I have had a serious phobia of anything that moves since I was a child."

"I think I am very together as a person... but when I see anything that moves, something takes over me."

"It's involuntary and irrational but I am terrified."

The 51-year-old nutritionist says she had nightmares about what would happen on the show before she went, and did deep breathing exercises to help her cope with the experience.

Before she went, she said: "I feel like I need a rest."

"From what I understand, it will be very peace-

ful and relaxing, rather than the crazy madness I am used to."

And, clearly underestimating the number of insects she was about to face, she added: "I am hoping I will have an ally in the camp who can get rid of them."

"I don't want to kill them - just get them away from me."

Hypnotherapist Dominic Knight, who is an expert at treating people with phobias, suggests McKeith may have believed the show would help her face her fears: "In her mind she might have thought she could get through it, but she misjudged herself."

"When she finally got there, the nerves, the cameras, and her reputation have all been contributing factors. Anyone would feel uncomfortable in there, but not to the level of passing out. Fainting because of a phobia is very, very rare."

"The intensity of her fear was astronomical for that to happen."

Knight, who practises in Harley Street, London, says McKeith and other phobics - there are an estimated 10 million in the UK - work themselves up into an intense state of fear.

"They're afraid of how they're going to respond, as opposed to the thing itself," he explains.

Phobics who want to overcome their fears need to really want to do it, says Knight, who promises even those who've had

Phobia comes in many forms



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phobias for decades can beat them, by creating a positive association in the brain with whatever it is they're frightened of.

He recently worked with an arachnophobic who would burst into tears if a spider was in the room.

He got her to giggle at the thought of what she was doing, and find it hilarious. She can now take spiders outside by putting a glass over them, without any hysterics.

"Instead of people working themselves up into sheer terror, they need to work themselves up into pleasure or happiness.

"If they keep doing that and reinforcing it, it becomes automatic."

Knight has dealt with all kinds of phobias, ranging from common ones like a fear of public speaking and fear of flying, to the more bizarre, like cheese phobia.

The hypnotherapist explains he helped a man in Hollywood who couldn't even be in the same room as cheese. But by creating positive associations and making the man see how ridiculous his reaction was, he was soon able to pick cheese up without a problem.

Knight helps phobics disassociate themselves from their phobias, sometimes suggesting they

imagine themselves on a cinema screen responding to their fear in a ridiculous manner.

"We all have a mechanism within us that allows us to overcome our fears," he says. Your thought or association doesn't have to be real, adds Knight, but could even be a superhero for example.

"If you think about it, the fear isn't real either."

As most fears are learned, overcoming a phobia is often a case of re-learning how to respond appropriately to whatever it is you're frightened of.

The only fears we're born with, says Knight, are the fear of falling and of loud noises.

Triggers for phobias can sometimes be a bad experience, like being bitten by a dog, or a subconscious association.

Such an association might be a person being frightened of driving on motorways, not realising it's because they once had a very stressful job which involved motorway driving, so they've associated the stress with the

motorway.

In this type of situation, people need to think about a time when they used to perform the task with no problem.

"If you remember times when you've done really well, and how you used to respond, you begin to re-learn that."

There are, of course, normal fear responses to certain situations - like when you're faced with a pack of snarling dogs.

The difference between a normal response and a phobia is that the phobic will play the scene in their mind over and over again, and work themselves up about what could happen.

"The phobics are doing it themselves. It's all self-inflicted."

Knight insists that anyone can overcome a phobia - although he points out that McKeith may need support to get over extreme reactions like fainting out.

"The fear was so intense that she may need some help to feel comfortable again, because the ramifications of passing out like that can haunt her.

"If she thinks the experience got the better of her and she's going to learn from it, she'll be fine.

"But if she works herself up, her fear's going to be worse."

He says positive thinking is key for McKeith and all phobics: "If other people have overcome their phobias, you can too.

"You don't need to learn to live with fear."

Common Phobias

The mental health charity SANE.org lists some of the more common phobias as:

- Spiders (arachnophobia)
- Thunder and lightning (astrophobia)
- Heights (acrophobia)
- Leaving home or entering open spaces (agoraphobia)
- Enclosed or crowded places (claustrophobia)
- Social gatherings or attracting attention (social phobia)



arachnophobic scared by a spider



claustrophobic woman trapped in a lift



hypnotherapist Dominic Knight

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The good life

Celebrity hair colourist Jo Hansford, whose clients include Camilla Parker Bowles and Kate Winslett, talks to Gabrielle Fagan about losing her mother and her husband to pancreatic cancer.



Pancreatic cancer - The facts

- :: The disease kills around 7,000 people every year, according to statistics.
- :: It has the lowest survival rates of any common cancer - 3%: A figure which hasn't improved in 40 years.
- :: It's the UK's fifth biggest cause of cancer death, but receives less than 2% overall funding.
- :: It is unusually aggressive, treatment options are limited, and there is currently no early diagnostic test.
- :: Symptoms are non-specific (most commonly abdominal pain, weight loss, jaundice) and only generally appear when the disease is advanced.
- :: It's estimated that 90% of patients are diagnosed too late for surgery.

Jo Hansford always seems to be in a whirl of activity. As a hair colourist to celebrities such as Liz Hurley, Camilla Parker Bowles, Nigella Lawson, and Kate Winslet she rarely has a spare minute.

It's a hectic pace which she relishes and one that helps her cope with the loss of her husband David - who died nine years ago from pancreatic cancer.

In a cruel coincidence it was the same disease that killed Jo's mother more than three decades earlier.

"To lose both of them from the same cancer was quite awful. I still find it difficult to believe," she says, talking of her loss during Pancreatic Cancer Awareness Week (22-28 November) this year.

"I'm passionate about my job, which is a great help as it distracts me from the grief. But even now I can be in a supermarket and see a couple of our age walking arm in arm, and think that should have been me and David. Moments like that can still make me cry."

The couple first met in Greenford, Middlesex when she was 16 and training to be a hairdresser and he was an estate agent.

She adds: "It was love at first sight. I was very shy, and he was outgoing and he could always inspire me with confidence."

She joined Vidal Sassoon where her talent with colour was soon recognised and celebrities flocked for her services. Her first celebrity client was actor David Hemmings - whose hair she did for the 1966 film Blow Up.

With her husband's encouragement she opened her own salon in 1993. The salon initially had eight employees, but this has grown to more than 40 to-

day. She also has her own range of products.

David became her financial director, the couple had two children and they led a seemingly charmed life until one morning in January 2000.

"We were at a meeting when our daughter Joanna suddenly noticed that David's eyes were yellow. I looked at him and saw his face was yellow as well."

"Immediately, I thought of my mother who'd died when she was 52 in 1965. Her eyes had been yellow - it was the first symptom of the disease."

David was seen by a specialist and had a series of tests - which initially only revealed a swelling of the pancreas.

She says: "I kept telling myself it couldn't be happening. I couldn't lose two people I loved to the same disease."

"The initial diagnosis wasn't conclusive but I knew that jaundice is the most common symptom of pancreatic cancer, along with weight loss, abdominal pain and nausea."

Their children, Joanna, 36, and now managing director of the Jo Hansford salon, Mayfair, and Daniel, 37, a film producer, were present when their father was eventually diagnosed with pancreatic cancer.

He underwent three operations and radiotherapy and chemotherapy, but the cancer later spread to his bowel. Eighteen months after his diagnosis he died, aged 60, in 2001.

Jo says: "I really started my grieving process right at the beginning of his illness because in my heart I knew, from my experience with my mother, what the outcome would be."

"But I had to keep that to myself and be positive throughout for his sake and of course the

children's. And half of me was telling myself 'where there's life there's hope' and clinging to straws thinking that in the 35 years since mum had died there must have been new treatments and developments."

"But despite seeing the best specialists and receiving the best treatment nothing could be done."

Jo has been inspired by her own tragedy to work for greater recognition of pancreatic cancer and she's a patron of the Pancreatic Cancer Research Fund.

"I'm motivated by not wanting others to suffer like David and my mother did. There needs to be more research focus on this cancer, which doesn't get the attention of other cancers. It only seems to hit the headlines when the sufferer is a celebrity such as Pavarotti or actor Patrick Swayze."

Jo, who is to receive an MBE for her services to hairdressing, says: "David would have been so proud. I feel I will be accepting it on his behalf as well."

"His death has changed my outlook on life as it awakens you to the fragility of life. Now my motto is to 'live every day and make it special' because I know how quickly it can be snatched away."

"And I'm so lucky that I have wonderful children and grandchildren. Time with my loved ones is something I will never take for granted."

Information: Jo Hansford is a patron of the Pancreatic Cancer Research Fund, which was set up by Maggie Blanks following the death of her husband Alan from the disease in 2003.

www.pcrf.org.uk.
To find out more, visit www.pancreaticcancerawareness.org.

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Safe car travelling

Several things have prompted me to just go back over the safe 'doggy travelling in the car' issue. First over the last few weeks people have asked my advice and then I found articles about it in the Doggy Magazines I picked up in the UK---it seems to be a hot discussion point over there.

We all know that the law here is a little 'grey', are we surprised? I have clients that have been fined mega money per unrestrained dog---one lady had 3 unrestrained! €250 per dog. Other people have reported being 'warned' but not fined. Our understanding is that our dogs must be either in a crate, in the boot behind a fixed dog guard or in car straps on the back seat. I am told they are not allowed on the front seat---again some clients have just been warned and not fined on that one.

We have a big 4x4 and the first time we did the drive down from the UK in 2000 Lennie and Sandy were in the boot behind a dog guard. We have had dog guards in our Estate cars for years and still have the guard in the Jeep. BUT I was a nervous wreck on such a long journey with them that far away, through San Sebastian and Madrid I became totally neurotic---why you may wonder? The main reason was the worry over a rear shunt, I was on edge and very stressed about it. The other reason was it was impossible to get drinks to them while the car was moving, when the drive was done in hot weather you need to be able to do this. So---the next time this trip was done Lennie and Sandy had car straps

on them and they were on the back seat. We had one of the water bowls that give constant water which was wedged there for them. I was much happier and we did the drives about 4/6 times a year for 4 years.

When we moved down in 2004, Chloe was 4 months old and had to go in the boot in a cage---but we had a trailer so I consoled myself the trailer would take the main force of a shunt---it was during blizzards so the drive was freezing cold so constant hot water not quite as necessary. Lennie and Sandy were on the back seat in straps.

So back to the articles in the magazines. They are mainly about dogs in boots or hatchbacks with car guards and are basically voicing my neurosis---what happens in a crash has happened to some people. One was a very mild back shunt but the back of her VW Golf was completely crumpled, thankfully her dogs were on the back seat with straps on.

Cages in the boot will stop dogs jumping around but there have been some problems with them during a bad rear shunt. Many of us have moved over to using airline crates---fine in a big car but what of my Fiat Panda and similar 'compact' cars, Dog Guards and Crates are not feasible. The problem some friends have with the Airline Crates, is that the crate makes seeing out of the car difficult. However this only happens with the big dogs and hence big crates.

A new product gaining much acclaim in the UK is a special crate that will crumple to absorb

the impact but retain its shape to protect and keep the dog safe. Many show dogs are now travelling within the UK in these robust looking crates---yes they are expensive BUT weighing up the pros and cons maybe worth the extra for the peace of mind. The ones I have seen do look robust, dogs look very happy in them as well. One would not fit in the Panda however. If anyone is interested in them just get in touch.

Car straps come in various shapes and sizes and it's just a case of trying them on and deciding which is best for your dog and your car. Mine have the straps

that clip into the seat belts. After an emergency stop a while back with Cassie I found I did not have the anchor strap tight enough so I learnt something. It did restrain her in the back but she ended up in the footwell---had I had the strap tighter this would not have happened. But it worked I am pleased to say---without the strap she would have been in the front, all 33kgs of her.

Myself I have car straps for them all. I have been using them for at least 25 years. In the UK I drove an MGB Roadster and Lennie my Bearded went eve-



Lennie in my MGB Roadster in the UK, ready to go in his car straps way back in the mid 1990s.

rywhere with me---I managed to find the very unusual doggy car harness and have used them ever since. They are always in the car, all with different hair ties on them so I know which one belongs to which dog.

Please contact us if you have any questions about the various methods to use. It is just a case of deciding what suits your lifestyle best.

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Milo & Me

Thunderstorms and dogs don't mix.

Well, they do, sometimes, because Milo's not that bothered about them really, it's me that's the problem. I constantly worry that he might start to bother about them and get scared.

And I don't want him being scared, so I feel compelled to keep checking on him.

Because he's still a bit of a destructive whirlwind in the house (his powerful tail knocks most things off most places, like shelves, tables, etc), and he still chews, he spends the nights in his little house outside (which---before people start taking pity on him---has a nicer eiderdown in it than the one I've got on my bed and its covered by an umbrella AND a terrace to make sure he's doubly protected from the weather in all seasons). A few nights ago, when we had the first big storm, I traced up and down so many times to see if he was ok,

and every time I did I found him snuggled up snoring away oblivious to the storm. I checked on him obsessively from 1pm till about 3am and the only one who got soaked and frightened was me!

That sleepless night took me back to when he was a puppy, at eight weeks, when we first got him. I spent those first few nights up and down to check on him, every half hour or so, just to make sure he was still breathing. So because of my nostalgia this week I've decided to use the very first photo we got of him, when he was just a few weeks old. I'm sure it'll make a few people go ahhh... I suppose there'll be a few people getting a puppy for Christmas---I hope they're as adorable as mine and they're loved as much as Milo is.

Milo still is a bit of a puppy. The other day, while I was vacuuming, he tried to hide his snout in my pocket then jumped in the laundry basket to take refuge

from it. He's not too fond of the old Hoover.

Now he's obsessed with the Christmas tree. He eyes up the baubles, makes out he's sniffing the presents then grabs the nearest bauble and runs off with it. His mouth was covered in glitter last weekend, his nose sparkled for days. We've got to be so attentive. He took a huge dislike to a stocking we've got hanging in the living room and tries to pull it off every time he walks past it.

I'm actually getting a bit emotional---I tend to at Christmas time. Tomorrow we're off to the US for a couple of week's holiday. 'Grandma' will be babysitting Milo, but we'll be back before the



25th so at least we'll all be together this year to celebrate and I'll have a tan to rival the roast Turkey's!

And on that note, Milo, myself and Other Half would like to wish everyone a really, really Merry Christmas and a prosperous New Year.

Have a good one!

Carrie-Marie Bratley

Hi There !

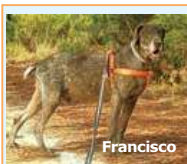


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Santa's little beauty helpers

Lisa Haynes helps you survive the party season with miracle products and tricks to feign beauty sleep.



On the big night you may have been glamour personified: bouncy blow dry, perfect party make-up and false lashes that put Cheryl Cole to shame.

But fast-forward to the morning-after-the-night-before and it's a different story...

Your hair looks like it's been stuck in a tumble dryer cycle, sparkly cosmetics have slid halfway down your face - and over your best frock - and those false lashes now resemble two spiders hanging out on your pillowcase.

A heavy night on the tiles can spell one big beauty hangover the next day.

With the festive party invitations stacking up, it's time to get your rescue routine down to a fine art, so that when that alarm goes off, you can step out of the door looking like the picture of virtue and vitality - no matter how much

sleep you've clocked up.

Check out the post party pick-me-ups that will fool everyone during the festive season.

Skin stress

In an ideal world, we'd fling off our party heels and commence on a cleanse, tone and moisturise mission before downing a pint of water.

But let's get real, after a few too many mulled wines and Christmas cocktails, removing shoes might be about your limit.

Keep cleansing wipes at your bedside table ready to erase your party face. You can always remove the glitter and mascara leftovers you've missed in the morning.

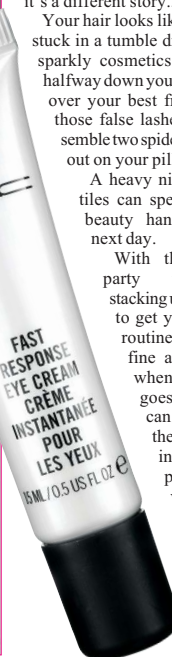
"There's a misconception wipes are bad for the skin, they're not," says Bharti Vyas, holistic skincare therapist.

"Wipes actually help remove the dead cells and improve circulation to refine the skin."

"Wrap the wipe around three fingers and use in a circular motion. In the morning, splash your face with cold water to wake the skin."

Eye sore

If there's one sure-fire giveaway you've had one too many drinks



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ternatively, pin it around the base to make a large bun."

Five-minute face

When the clock's ticking but your reflection is still giving you nightmares on waking up, perfect a micro-second mirror routine.

Look for products containing light-diffusing technology that reflect light away from large pores, uneven skin tone and dreaded dark circles.

"The best morning-after beauty routine starts with your skin," advises Pablo Rodriguez, senior make-up artist at MAC Cosmetics.

"Drink water and hydrate your skin with a product containing calming properties like chamomile,

green tea and cucumber to condition it. Then, apply a caffeine-based eye cream to de-puff and moisturise with a product like MAC's Strobe Cream, which reflects the light for an instant glow."

After a night of heavy make-up, let your skin breathe and cut back on cosmetics to shrink your application time.

Rodriguez recommends: "Add a touch of colour to brighten up your complexion using a pink blusher on the apples of your cheeks, a bright lip colour, and curl lashes to open up your eyes."



suffering with a
hangover

and way too little sleep, it's your eyes. Sadly those Jackie Onassis-style sunglasses just aren't going to cut it in the workplace.

The bloodshot look, eye bags and dark circles are all tell-tale signs that you've been burning the festive candle at both ends.

Leave an eye-mask in your fridge to diminish puffy eyes for five minutes while you're coming around on your snooze button and use a refreshing eye roll-on so the cooling effects continue during your commute.

Shahena Ali, founder of The Powder Lounge, says: "To make eyes look less bloodshot and instantly wider, brighter and more sparkly, apply a cream coloured or flesh toned eye pencil to the inner rim of the upper and lower eyelid."

"This is a great shortcut to faking a good night's sleep, creating the illusion of wide awake eyes."

Hair scare

Who knows if it's the excessive dancefloor grooving or flirtatious hair flicking but a night of partying appears to result in extremes of either wild or limp locks.

Tackle unruly bed-head knots and back-combing hangovers with a Tangle Teezer brush.

The beer bottle may have been your best friend last night but if you're too time-pushed to lather up your locks, reach for the trusty dry shampoo bottle to revive your tresses.

Nick Malenko from Royston Blythe salon has this advice for faking an uber-polished look:

"To transform limp hair, spray it all over with dry shampoo then tip your head upside down to

help create a high ponytail with body."

"Use tongs or straighteners to create a sleek curl in pony or al-

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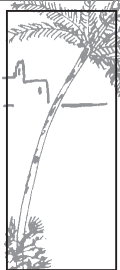
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OCEAN CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY - International Spirit-filled Church serving the Linha de Cascais area. Small group bible studies meet regularly. Sunday worship with a contemporary style at the Hotel Sobaia, Rua Belmonte, No. 1, Estoril. Tel: 21 9282019

BAPTIST MISSION - Esgueira (Aveiro) Traditional Baptist church service in English on Sunday at 5pm. Contact: Pastor David Loop Tel: 965-363-986. **RIVERSIDE INT CHURCH.** Contemporary, caring, Christ-centered international and interdenominational Christian church. Sunday 11:00 (Eng-

lish). Centro Comercial S. Pedro, Rua Nunes Santos 21, S. Pedro do Estoril. (Auditorium inside small mall). Creche and Children's Ministry provided. Church Office in Cascais. For more details: www.riversideintchurch.com **THE DOOR** Christian Int. Church Cidade Desportiva, Praceta Carlos Capitulo, Loja "B" Massama / Queluz, Sunday 10:30am & 7:00pm. Pastor Frank Escobar at 21-467-3386 or Mobile 919 086 683. **ST GEORGE'S CHURCH;** LISBON (Church of England). Av. 5 Jorge 6 (north of Estrela Gardens). Service 11:45am every Sunday. Tel. 214 692 303. **ST PAUL'S CHURCH, ESTORIL** (Church of England). Av. Bombeiros

Voluntários 59 (behind Hotel Sana Estoril). Sunday School. Service 10:00 am every Sunday. Tel. 214 692 303. **ST. MARY'S, S. PEDRO DO ESTORIL** 368 Rua do Murtal, Mass each Sunday and Holyday 10:15am Tel. 214 673 771

ST. ANDREW'S CHURCH OF SCOTLAND (PRESBYTERIAN) Rua Arriaga, 13, Lisbon. Sun. 11:00. Bi-lingual Sunday school & creche is available. Minister's Tel: 218 043 410, www.standrewslisbon.com **CASCAIS INT. CHRISTIAN CHURCH** Av. de Sintra, Nº 1154, Cascais (Tel: 214 861 856). Sunday English worship 10:30. An int. evangelical fellowship, nursery provided, children's church programme, mid-week bible studies.

THE SALVATION ARMY, LISBON Reboleira Corps (Praceta Almada Negroiro, Lote 213 Loja D1 do Exército 11 A), Chelas Corps (Rua Rui de Sousa, Lote 65 A Loja C), Laranjeiras Corps (Bairro de Laranjeiras). At all these corps: Morning 9.30am Salvation Meeting 5.00pm Picheleira Corp Rua Capitão Roby, Picheleira, Lisbon (21 805708).

LISBON SYNAGOGUE: Rua Alexandre Herculano 59, Tel: 213 931 130 Fax: 213 884 304. info@synagoga.pt **IGREJA BAPTISTA** de Queijas (close to Cascais) Rua Carlos Santos 88, Queijas Near the Olympic Stadium off the A5. Tel: 214 172 087. Sunday Service: English 10:15 Prayer and Bible Study Thursday 8pm Traditional Baptist Service in English followed by Sunday School.

JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES - Public Talk in English. Rua João de Deus, 76, Sintra. (Behind Sintra train station). Sunday 1.30pm. Tel: 214 690 600. Also Rua da Barroca, 122 (Bairro Alto), Lisbon. Sunday 11am. Tel: 213 421 604. (Chinese: Saturday 3pm).

The Algarve

ALL SAINTS ANGLICAN CHURCH, ALGARVE Holy Communion every Sunday. **Almancil** 10.30am with Adventurers at Almancil Community Centre (ASCA). **Lagoa** 6pm at Lagoa Convent Chapel. www.allsaintsalgarve.org or 282 380 311.

ST VINCENT'S ANGLICAN CHURCH C of E. Sunday 9.30am Igreja N Sra de Fátima, N125 between Quatro Estradas & Almancil, 11.30am St Luke's, Gorgões, 8.00am & 12noon Igreja N Sra da Luz, Praia da Luz, near Lagos 918 824 584. www.stvincentsalgarve.org

THE SALVATION ARMY in São Brás de Alportel will hold on the 1st Sunday of each month an International Worship Service at the Salvation Army Citadel in São Brás at 5pm, Rua 25 de Abril, nº 19 (next to the Market).

INT. CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP Rua N.S.do Amparo (just off Avda 25 de

abril) in "The Bridge" rooms, Cedipraia Shopping Centre. Worship Sunday 11.30am. Sunday School for children in English & Portuguese. For more info call 282 461 985 see <www.coaa.co.uk/icf.htm>

INT. COMMUNITY CHURCH in Lagos invites you to attend its services in English Sundays 10.30am. Newfrontiers Sunday School 5 Travessa de Santo Amaro, Lagos, Tel. 282-086804 or 282-697546, www.icc-lagos.org.

INT. EVANGELICAL CHURCH OF THE ALGARVE Warmly welcomes residents & visitors of all nationalities & denominations to their Sunday Services in Vale Judeu at 10.30. Big sign on the N125 between the Vilamoura entrance & the Atlântico Waterslide Park. Creche and Sunday School. For further information: 289 328635.

LAGOA CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP. English & Portuguese language church of the Algarve, Christ Centred study of the Bible and modern worship, Sunday school available for toddlers to teens. Sunday services 11am Mid-week study 8pm Wednesdays. EN 125 Porches Retail Park, Vale de Lousas, Alcantarilha. Tel: 914 664 418 Pastor Jon Martin. www.lagoafellowship.org for more info

TAVIRA CHRISTIAN CENTRE Meetings in English, Sundays at 10.30 am at Av. Mateus Teixeira de Azevedo, 61A (Opposite Skippers Bar) Full programme and further details from Jesus Christ Mateus, 917 872 665 and 917 872 559 or Maria 966 380 404. E-mail: jackieandmo@yahoo.co.uk

RESGATE DE VIDA, LAGOS, Raising up a new generation according to Eph. 4 v 11-12, Church with a Brazilian Flavor. Portuguese speaking, Children Welcome. Meeting on Sundays 8pm - 10pm at Rua, Hospital S. João de Deus. For directions phone Pastors Sidney 963414757 or Anderson 962934005

SALVATION ARMY Service Sundays at 10.45am in Portuguese. Bible studies for children, adolescents and adults in Portuguese starting at 9.30 until 10.30. Rua 25 de Abril, nr. 19, São Brás de Alportel

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EREV SHABAT - For services Tel: 282 416710

JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES - Public Talk in English. The New Kingdom Hall of Jehovah's Witnesses, "Largo Enx" Sarrea Prado, Portimão (Next door to the University). Sunday 10.30am. School Thursday 7.30pm Tel: 282 485 495. (Chinese: Saturday 4pm) ALSO Sítio de Lagoas, Edifício Space Beautiful, Av 25 Abril. Ferreiras Albufeira. (Sunday 10am. School Wednesday 7.45pm Tel: 282 339 372.

Oporto

GREATER GRACE INTERNATIONAL FELLOWSHIP Has contemporary Christian gatherings on Sunday afternoons at 3rd Baptist Church, Rua Estação 133, Porto, & Saturday evenings on the 1st floor at Confeitaria Palácio, Porto (across from the "Emergency" entrance of Hospital Santo Antonio); for meeting times, details and updated schedule visit www.NovaAurora.com, call 220 994 785 or send an SMS to 917 112 736.

RIVERSIDE PORTO INTERNATIONAL CHURCH - Oporto. A church that is fun and enriching: Bible based and relevant. Caring, supportive and international. Interdenominational meetings from 6pm Sundays at 1642 Avenida Sacadura Cabral, Aguda, VNG, between Aguda railway station and Miramar golf course. Call Tina or Bill Mason on 227 627 643 or 914 949 611 contact@riversideporto.com or www.riversideporto.com

ST. JAMES'S CHURCH, ANGLICAN CHAPLAINCY OF OPORTO. Largo da Maternidade, Júlio Dinis. Sun. 11am Details from Chaplain (22) 609 1006. www.stjamesoport.com

THE SALVATION ARMY OPORTO Pereiro Corps (Av. Vasco da Gama No: 675-2 E Ramalde), Service 10am, Salvation Meeting 5.00pm. Coloras Corps. (Av. dos Bombeiros Voluntários; Tel: 22 929 1077) Sun. 10am. Thurs 4.00pm Ladies Home League Meeting.

JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES - Public Talk in English. Praça Don Afonso V, 168, Sunday 10.30am. Tel: 226 160 976.

Caldas da Rainha

ANGLICAN EVENING WORSHIP IN ENGLISH. At 6.00pm on the Second Sunday of each month. Held in the Evangelical Baptist Church, Rua Dr. José Saudade e Silva 27/29, between Railway Station and central 'Pingo Doce'. For details phone 262881393. **JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES** - Public Talk in English. Rua Adelino Amaro da Costa to RCRIP 2520 Peniche/Óbidos. Sunday 11am (1st & 2nd Sunday of the month).

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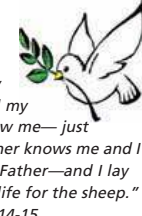
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I am the good shepherd; I know my sheep and my sheep know me — just as the Father knows me and I know the Father — and I lay down my life for the sheep.
- John 10:14-15



Event Calendar

www.theportugalsnews.com

click on the icon and add YOUR event or see what's on

Announcements

CANCER MEETINGS Have you been affected by Cancer? Members of the women's cancer support group meet for advice or an informal chat on the first Wednesday of every month in Loulé. If you would like to join us, please contact Vi on 289 882 680 or 917962255.



OKIDO INTERNATIONAL Kindergarten is now open. Full -and part time spaces available for children from 1,5 up to 5 years. Fully qualified and multilingual teachers. Large outside play area. Call or stop by our school to learn more. Tel: 935250645 (Sesmarías near Lagoa) Also Mother & Toddler groups on Fridays 10-12h €3

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CHRISTMAS FAIR in aid of the NECI School. Sat., Dec. 18th, 11am to 5pm at the Mirage Restaurant in Praia da Luz. Stock up on Hand Crafted Items, Christmas Gifts, Cakes, Ketley's Smoked Products & Wendy's Cheese & Pickles. SANTA'S GROTTTO will be open for the children, get their picture taken with Santa and a free lucky dip. Come along for some Christmas Cheer. For more info, contact 919-117108 From the EN125, turn for Luz at lights opposite Espiche, pass 1st roundabout, take 2nd left, Rua do Ramalhete, follow road all the way until end, Mirage on left hand side, plenty of parking. <http://www.luz-info.com/bars.htm#Mirage>

Classified Hotline

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CASA - IS a local social group established over 20 years ago. A friendly group who have a monthly newsletter and at least one activity per month, usually dinners at local venues. We have and annual trip to Spain or within Portugal, plus other activities. Open o everyone. For more information and a sample newsletter give Mary a call on 282 357 275.

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Charities

THE NANDI Animal Charity/Lagos continues this week to thank people who helped Nandi in the past year. Pedro Rodrigues of XD Print Shop provided beautiful finishing design touches to Nandi publicity. Armando and Elena Gonçalves at Mildoces Pastelaria treated the Nandi community with humour and great forbearance on Nandi Quiz Nights and all other occasions. Thanks also to The Portugal News staff for their assistance. Blessings of the season to all! More next week.



www.theportugalnews.com

AYAMONTE ANIMAL Rescue Fund Raising Craft Fair & Car Boot Sale. Calico Park 0034 959053096.

CAR BOOT Sale held every 3rd Sunday of the month at Restaurant 'Quinta dos Areões', adjacent to the Veterinary Clinic in Espiche. Stallholders pay from €3. All proceeds go to Rosco's Charity Association. Call Alfred on 919886955 or contact us on our website www.roscofoundation.org for more information.

CHARITY SHOP, Montechoro, Albufeira (behind chemist's) needs volunteers to help in the shop. Please ring Lesley: 962 414 584

WANTED: THE Donkey Sanctuary needs your unwanted furniture, clothes, books and bric-a-brac for our charity shops in Lagoa and Monte Carvoeiro, all proceeds to aid donkeys in distress. We will collect larger items. Call Nan Richardson 962 633 811, for details of our work for animal welfare. Please help.

TAVIRA TREASURE Charity Shop. Tavira Christian Centre, Av. Mateus Teixeira de Azevedo, 61A (Opposite Skippers Bar). Come and browse, come and bring clothing, bric-a-brac, books. Open Wednesdays, 2:30-4:30pm and Saturdays 10:30am - 12:30pm. Phone 917872559/ 913617991 for further details. Volunteers needed so we can open more frequently.

CHARITY BOOK Sale & Coffee Morning. 2,000 nearly new paperbacks at 70c each. All proceeds in aid of The Boy's Home in Faro. Friendly atmosphere in pleasant surroundings. Every Friday from 10:00am to 12 noon, in the Village Hall, Monte da Palhagreira, Gorjões, Sta. Barbara de Nexe. Info. Tel: 289 990 901.

ALBUFEIRA ABA Charity shop, 41D Avenida do Ténis, open Tuesday to Saturday 10:30am until 2:00pm (next door to the Galeano Bar) on the road that leads to the Marina, from the dual carriageway. We are an independent charity, using the income from the shop for neutering animals. Please help us by donating items for sale.

APAA CHARITY Shops. Cerro Grande, Albufeira, Tuesday to Saturday 10:30am to 2:00pm; Dunas do Alvor, Tuesday to Saturday 10:30am to 2:00pm and Sunday 10:30am to 1:00pm; Rua da Mesquita, Silves, Monday to Saturday 10:00am to 2:00pm. Good quality clothes, bric-a-brac, books, jigsaws, etc. Stock and new volunteers always welcome. Help us to help abandoned dogs and cats.

DO YOU have some spare time? Would you like to make new friends and help animals, too? Become a volunteer for the Nandi Animal Charity Shops in Lagos. Most volunteers work one half-day a week. Join us! We are a friendly group and we need you! For more information, call Susan at 918575533.

www.theportugalnews.com

NEW CHARITY Shop opened in Guia, situated one way street 3 doors up from Restaurant Atlântico opposite carpark (3 mins from Algarve Shopping turn into Guia at Chicken Roundabout). Open 10:30am to 6:00pm each day except Saturday (10:30am to 1:30pm), closed Sundays. Books, excellent quality new and nearly new clothes for men, women, children and babies, toys, puzzles, bric-a-brac, towels, bed linen and many more quality items.

ASSOCIATION BIANCA, a registered Portuguese charity that runs an animal shelter near Lisbon (see more on www.bianca.pt/english) invites you to its online charity shop: <http://www.fazendoanimaisfelizes.blogspot.com>/You can buy or you can donate. Either way, you are helping to feed 250 dogs and 50 cats.

Education

CHILDRENS BOOKS for sale by Internationally renowned author Julie Hodgson. In English, Portuguese and now on Kindle via Amazon. Come and meet Julie at www.juliehodgson.com



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WRITING CIRCLE in Lagoa Library with Jenny Grainer starting on October 12th at 10.30 then every 1st Tuesday in the month Tel: 963 518 184 jennygrainer@sapo.pt

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- Big grinder: €130
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- Battery operated grinder (2 batteries): €220
- 2x cordless drill (18V Wurth): €250
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Contact: Elmano Francisco - Portimão 961 386 805 or send an E-mail to: elmano@matriloic.com

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Algarve. WEEKLY MEETINGS: Mon.: Portimão 7.30pm. Tues.: Almoncil 1.00pm; Almoncil 6.30pm (Men's meeting); Albufeira 8.00pm. Wed.: Almoncil 7.30pm. Thurs.: Pêra 7.30pm, Tel: 919 005 590; Tavira 7.30pm. Fri.: Almoncil 1.00pm; Portimão 7.30pm. Sat.: Almoncil 5.30pm. Call 919 005 590, 10.00-7.30pm. Portuguese AA 917 483 478. GSO Lisbon AA Tel: 217 162 969. We look forward to seeing you there.

Mums & Tots



Tuesdays 10.00am - 12.00 Meet friends, coffee, fun, playing, puppets. ICC Church Hall, Lagos. For further details on location of Church and Sunday services (with Kidz Klub) & other activities and available courses at International Community Church, see web site www.icc-lagos.org or call 282 697 546 or 282 086 804.

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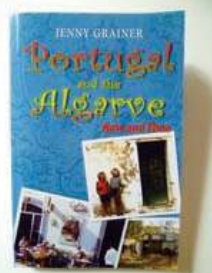
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Celebrating Christmas in Spain

Eloise Walton

If you're looking to make a change to the usual Christmas ritual, you may be tempted to head over the border and experience the festivities in Costa de la Luz, but beware, these may not be what you expect.

Winter celebrations start early in Spain with the religious public holiday of the Immaculate Conception on 8 December and culminate on the day of the Three Kings 'Los Reyes Magos' on 6 January.

Throughout this festive period, visitors can expect to see life size nativity scenes called 'Belén' (Spanish for Bethlehem) on display in public squares. In some places there are living 'Beléns' where whole areas are taken over with people acting out this event.

If you happen to see a television in Spain on 22 December, you will most likely watch the world-renowned national lottery draw 'El Gordo', meaning 'The Fat One', where school children from the St. Ildefonso school sing out the numbers.

This is the most traditional draw in Spain, and it is a tradition

that everyone in the country plays the lottery on 22 December. Last year, each Spaniard spent an average amount of €73 in the draw that pays out prizes immediately and which are tax-free for life.

Expat Kevin Alder who runs a restaurant in Isla Canela told **The Portugal News**: "Christmas itself is a very family oriented and religious affair in Spain, so visitors will find that many things are closed during the day and the streets are very quiet." Fellow expat Carol McAuley, who has lived in Spain for more than three years and runs a barn near Ayamonte spent her first Christmas in the country last year.

"It's very different to the UK, the atmosphere is different. Christmas is much more low key in Spain, with the focus being spending time with the family" she said.

After Christmas, the Spaniards celebrate Holy Innocent's day on 28 December, which is similar to April Fools, so visitors are warned to be on their guard, especially in Costa de la Luz where many locals take pleasure in involving tourists in the celebrations.

Following this, New Years is similar to anywhere else in Europe, with festive gatherings and fireworks being the main attraction. Visitors will almost certainly however be handed 12 grapes to eat on the 12 chimes of midnight, a common Spanish practise to ensure good luck in the New Year.

According to Mr. Alder, the evening of 5 January however is definitely worth crossing the border for, as each town hosts a "colourful religious parade, featuring the Three Kings who throw sweets into the streets."

Traditionally children across Spain only receive their presents at midnight on 5 January or the morning of 6 January as Jesus did from the Three Kings. This means that for shoppers though, sales only start on 7 January as people buy gifts right up until the last minute.

"Spain is starting to celebrate Christmas more nowadays, but the biggest celebration is on the night of 5 January,



Typical Spanish Christmas nougat

whereas on 24 December families traditionally go to Catholic Mass then spend 25 December at home with family," he said.

"Last year I went to Madrid to watch the Three Kings parade, it was very busy and I advise anyone thinking about coming to watch one to arrive early so as to get a good space to view," added Mrs. McAuley.

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Olhanense make Benfica fight all the way

Christopher Wright

Only Académica, under the leadership of former Olhanense manager Jorge Costa, has left the Stadium of Light with anything to show for their efforts this season.

The game with Olhanense was to be no exception although up to the fortieth minute the visitors were well in the game. Manager Daúto Faquirá was without centre-back Mauricio, back home in Brazil to visit his sick father, and the influential Vinicius, out through injury.

Mexer partnered Jardel at the back with Carlos Fernandes, Cadu and Fernando Alexandre filling the midfield positions. Paulo Sérgio, who has had an excellent season and could be on his way to Sevilla in January, was in sparkling form. The visitors caused the home defence plenty of problems in the opening half, with Roberto having to save well from Jorge Gonçalves to prevent the Algarveans from going in front. At the other end of the pitch Olhanense goalkeeper Moretto had an unhappy return to his former club as he gifted them their opening goal just before half-time.

Oscar Cardozo headed towards goal from a Maxi Pereira cross, but the ball was aimed straight at Moretto. After appearing to gather the ball, the keeper somehow let it slip under his body and trickle agonisingly over the line.

Shortly after the break Paulo Sérgio scored what looked like a perfectly good goal only for his celebrations to be cut short as the assistant referee raised his flag for offside.

A decision that was to alter the course of the game.

From then on Benfica rarely looked in danger of surrendering

the lead. With ten minutes of the match remaining Carlos Martins took a corner, David Luiz flicked the ball on at the near post and striker Saviola nipped in at the far post to head home. The Paraguayan Cardozo, who scored a hat-trick in the corresponding game last season, and the Argentinian Saviola have, between them, made 73 appearances for their countries which highlights the difference in perceived levels of quality.

Benfica's playing budget is €40million whilst the Algarve side has the lowest in the league at €1.4million. Olhanense, still without an away win this season, have dropped to tenth place.

They will be looking to return to winning ways, their last league win was against V. Setúbal in early October, when they entertained Nacional (Madeira) on 19 December. Central defender Jardel was disappointed with the outcome and regrets the lack of goals by the Algarve side in the first half. "We had plenty of possession in the first twenty minutes, the best chances were ours but we did not score" said he Brazilian player.

Only a hundred of the expected 1,500 fans made the journey to the Stadium of Light. Benfica, inexplicably announced they would be charging €17.50 - normally €10 for visiting supporters to encourage a good turnout - for the game against Olhanense.

The majority of fans joined the boycott and stayed at home to watch the game on TV.

The small group of fans who did make the trip included 46 of the Gorilla Group who, on arrival at the Stadium, were kept in their coach for over an hour.

Iberian disappointment as FIFA picks Russia

Portugal will have to wait a while longer to co-host a World Cup after Russia FIFA President Joseph Blatter announced the honour of staging the 2018 tournament would be given to Russia.

The FIFA Executive Committee's 22 members (there are usually 24, but two have been suspended) chose Russia over England and the joint bids of Portugal and Spain, Belgium and Holland.

Mr. Blatter also announced that FIFA picked Qatar to host the 2022 World Cup.

The decision comes as a disappointment to the high-regarded joint Iberian bid. A technical review had concluded that Portugal and Spain had excellent facilities to host the event.

The Iberian bid had made its final pitch to the FIFA executive committee last week.

Portuguese Prime Minister José Sócrates said the Iberian bid to host the 2018 World Cup "represents 600 million people".

"I believe anyone who's familiar with football knows this bid will be competently organised", Prime Minister Sócrates added.

The Portuguese prime minister and his Spanish counterpart, José Luis Zapatero, were part of the delegation presenting the Iberian bid's case to host football's premier event.

The 2014 World Cup will take place in Brazil. *TPN/Lusa*



Prime Minister José Sócrates and Luís Figo on their arrival in Zurich on 2 December to present the Iberian candidacy for World Cup 2018. (Photo: Lusa / Ricardo Oliveira)

Expat fans featured on tv

Portuguese television company TVi have screened a fifteen minute documentary on the expat fans who support Olhanense.

The football community in Portugal find it hard to understand why so many expat fans, there are now over 200 registered, support a small town team when

so many locals are Benfica or Sporting Lisbon followers.

Football is the catalyst for the group who enjoy a real cultural experience as they mix with Portuguese, English, Irish, Belgian, German, Scottish, Canadian and American fans. Olhanense is a real family club with players,

management and supporters showing mutual respect while enjoying experiences that have forged friendships that will last a lifetime. The TV cameras started to roll the day before the big game as the expats donned the club shirts and tracksuits before jogging out on to the pitch.

Five 'takes' later, some were wilting from their exertions, and the director was satisfied. Another part of the fifteen minute epic production was in the can! Two days of filming and it will be interesting to see the finished product which will be posted on YouTube after its national premiere.

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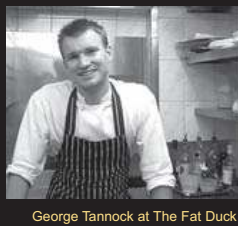
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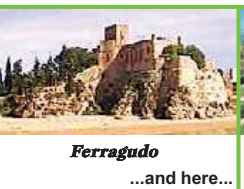
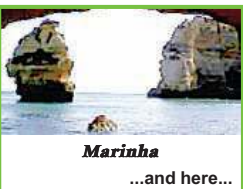
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